HISTORICAL SAGA OF THE CARLTON REGION, 1797 - 1920

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by

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Commemorating Saskatchewan's Heritage
1905 - 1985

I dedicate this book to my children Kenneth Marlene and Robert and their families and to all generations who stemmed from courageous settlers of the Western Frontier

Cover Design by
Agatha Stupnikoff
Titled
"SALUTE TO THE NEW HORIZONS"

Courageous settlers proceeding westward to a land, where they had hopes and dreams of living a life style within their beliefs.

HISTORICAL SAGA OF THE CARLTON REGION 1797 - 1920

Researched, Compiled and Published
by Sam George Stepnikoff

Commemorating Saskatchewan's Heritage
1905 1985

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HISTORICAL SAGA OF THE CARLTON REGION
1797 1930
By Sam G Rupenhoff Blaine Lake Saskatchewan

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Foreword and Acknowledgements

The historical saga of the Carlton Region is based on events and the story of Canadian ethnic minorities, the Métis, he Mennonites, and the Doukhobors. The perseverance of each individual group and the hardships encountered in their efforts to attain a life style and maintain their culture and communities on the untamed Western Frontier is gradually becoming a legend. The story of the region's past may read like a novel, but the highlights of its history must be recorded and maintained for succeeding generations.

Being of a background of Doukhobor Faith, my wife and I are direct descendants of grandparents and parents who migrated to Canada with the Doukhobor contingent and settled in the Prince Albert Doukhobor Reserve in 1899. With the dissolution of the Prince Albert Doukhobor Reserve in 1907, he Spiritzoff and Postnikoff families adhered to the independence of individual farming. While maintaining the family farm and also farming Xavier Lots 4 and 6 on all the 1970 surveys in Township (Twp.) 44 Range (Rge.) 5 West (W) of 3rd Meridian (Mer.), it has been my lifelong aspiration to record the region's history as it unfolded. The information is based on the reminiscence of our predecessors and on the availability of material relevant to an area of the province that is steeped in history and a part of the Great North West.

The most contentious area to a researcher is the accessibility of material. The sources of material do not necessarily await the researcher in archives, libraries, and well-field work and personal interviews bring all the desired information with ease. The response and co-operation of archival personnel for records that provided invaluable information, librarians for acquiring various publications, and individuals for personal interviews are acknowledged and greatly appreciated.

I would like to express thanks to the typist for doing the enormous amount of work involved in the typing of my manuscript.

Sincere appreciation is acknowledged to individuals who reviewed the initial script and offered advice on modifications in various areas of the draft, and to the Saskatchewan Government Department of Culture and Recreation for financial assistance towards research and manuscript preparation.

To my family I am grateful for the support and encouragement offered to me in the preparation of this project. To my wife, Agatha, who spent endless hours in the typing of the various stages of the script to be used in support of his history, I would like to say "thank you."

The topics and the highlights of this unfolding history of the Carlton Region are entirely my own selections. The information and facts are to the best of my knowledge and to the accuracy of the sources identified herein.

Preface

In the excited rush and confusion of our everyday lives, we have little or no time to reflect on our common heritage and history of the early settlers. The era of the pioneers is memorable one. Many came penniless, with hope, aspiration and determination. They came into the untamed wilderness by the will of the Creator to carve a lifestyle and change natural landscapes into districts of cultural inheritances in the settlement of the Canadian West.

The Carlton Region has characteristics of historical significance as did many areas of the Western Plains a hinterland of the past, a geographical area, located West of the Third Principal Meridian, primarily of Twps 41–48 Rge. 1 7 W3rd Mer. with the North Saskatchewan River flowing through from the south west portion of the area on Twp 44 Rge. 7 W3rd Mer. to the north east of the region of Twp 48 Rge. 1 W3rd Mer.

The inhabitants of the Western Frontier were Indians of the Plains who identified themselves by tribal names. Cree Blackfoot Gros Ventres, Chippewa Sioux, etc. They were non agricultural people, who hunted and fished for the necessities of their vital food needing and habits. They hunted with stone tipped weapons and butchered with stone and bone tools. The weaponry and tools were a product of their own skillfulness. Many artifacts of these weapons and tools have been found in the region primarily in the area surround ng Fort La Montée this was situated on the west bank of the North Saskatchewan River at the base of

River Lo 1 Twp. 45 Rge. 5 W3rd Mer. which is now within the boundaries of the Rural Municipality of Blaine Lake 434.

The Western Plains were rich with fur bearing animals and food of different species. Generations of Indian tribes that lived n areas, slowly developed over the years, a kind of a road system of foot worn paths that followed streams and animal migratory routes. Some of these foot trodden paths became the First overland routes of the white man. The Cree Indians were predominantly the inhabitants of the Carlton Region prior to the presence of the fur traders, explorers, missionaries, surveyors, and early settlers. The white man's presence drastically changed the Indian's way of life.

The appearance of the fur traders on the Saskatchewan River system was by the North West Fur Trading Company a Company but monopolized the fur trade from 768 to 1770.

The Hudson's Bay Company built its first inland post on the North Saskatchewan River at Cumberland House in 1774.

As the fur trade moved West up the river the Carlton Region became an area of less activity with the construction of Fort La Montée in 1793 by the North West Trading Company on the west bank of the river. The Hudson's Bay Company also came further west and built a fort on the opposite side of the river some 3 miles downstream which was known as Carlton House in 1810.

Fort La Montée was constructed by the

French fur traders, while Carlton House was constructed by the British fur traders. The forts were in constant rivalry with each other, and at times there was confrontation between the two forts. The personnel of each fort had to trade with constant harassment by Indian tribes.

Realizing that the personnel in the two forts was not large enough to maintain constant vigil of prevailing conditions, the two forts amalgamated in 1820.

The first overland route was established in 1840, known as the Carlton Trail, followed by the appearance of steam navigation on the river system in 1870.

The Prince Albert Settlement was founded by the Reverend Jennie Nisbet, a Presbyterian Minister in 1866. The settlement was situated on the south bank of Saskatchewan River, beginning east at the Principal Meridian in Twp. 48 Rge 28 The Prince Albert Settlement was a vital point in the settlement of the Carlton region from 1870 to 1900.

The area known as Rupert's Land west of the Manitoba border was sold to the Canadian Government in 1870 by the Hudson's Bay Company. This area then became a part of the Territories.

The 1870s saw the influx of group settlements into the Carlton Region. The first settlements were by displaced Metis from the Winnipeg area who settled on agricultural land along the river system. The Metis were granted a un-que subdivision of land known as River Lots. The River Lots were a blog of land equally divided into parcels each parcel measuring 1/8 of a mile in width and 2 miles in length (frontage), bordered by the river as a waterfront. Each Lot contained 160 acres more or less, and each Lot was numerically identified in each respective Township and Range

This provided the Metis Settlements access to the river as a source of water supply and a travel route, and created a community of being close in their neighbors. The Metis farmers grew oats and root vegetables, potatoes, turnips, and carrots. They also hunted and fished for their livelihood.

The Carlton Settlement along the east and west banks of the North Saskatchewan River, consisted of some 28 River Lots. Sixteen of these Lots were along the west bank of the river in Twps 44-45 Rge. 5 - W 3rd Mer., now in the Rural Municipality of Blaine Lake 434. They are still maintained as of the survey of 1870, and are farmed in the 1980s in that same manner.

The St. Laurent Settlement was of a much larger concentration along the east and west banks of the south branch of the Saskatchewan River in Twps. 41 -45 Rge 4th - W 2nd Mer., of some 208 Lots in the Rural Municipalities of Duck Lake 463, Rosthern 403 St. Louis 431 and Wakaw 402

In 1885 the Metis Settlements were dispersed by political outcry with the North West Rebellion, as their special survey of land did not conform with the original land surveys of the Canadian Government.

The completion of a railway line in 1890, by the Qu'Appelle Long Lake, Saskatchewan Railway Company from Regina extended north to Saskatoon and on to Prince Albert, serving the areas of Duck Lake and Rosthern

The 1890 era brought two groups of settlers into the Carlton Region, were the "Old" Colony Mennonites and people of Doukhobor Faith The Canadian Government at the time was seeking immigrants to set in the Western Prairies These two groups of people lived independently a Christ Russian Three religious Faith as conservative farmers as well as their lifestyle had a broad similarity

These two groups were under oppression and severe persecution by the Czarist Regime for refusing to serve in the militia. They were willing to migrate to a land free of cpp ression where there would be no government interference in their religious and co-operative way of life They were people of the soil willing to endure the hardships of the open prairie. Other

settlers chose to settle in woodlands and fertile river bottoms and shunned open prairie.

The two groups were large enough in number to be recognized by the Canadian government. The government made available large tracts of land for settlement in the Prairie Region similar to the terrain these people had occupied in Russia, and where each group in its own respective way would adapt a community lifestyle.

They were granted special concessions which were enacted by Order in Council in 1874, prior to their migration. No. 1, the "Militia Act" provided unconditional exemption from the militia. No. 2 the "Homble Act," allowed the building of villages, to maintain their communities in a lifestyle to which they were adapted to.

The Mennonites preceded the Doukhobors into the Carlton Region in 1895. They settled "en bloc" on land on the Northern Mennonite Reserve, bordered by the east bank of the North Saskatchewan River which is now a part of the Rural Municipality of Rosthern 403. The Doukhobors settled in the Carlton Region in 1899 on the Prince Albert Doukhobor Reserve, bordered by the west bank of the North Saskatchewan River, which is now a part of the Rural Municipality of Rume Lake 434.

Strangely enough the two groups with a relationship of beliefs, lifestyle migration pattern and concessions granted, lived independently of each other and maintained no association.

Ferries were established along the river in the region to facilitate the settlers of the area. Carlton, Petrofka, and Tallingrund which was later known as Leard Ferry.

The region was also being occupied by general settlement, surrounding the reserved land, with the arrival of settlers of various origins British, French, Ukrainian, Scandinavian, etc.

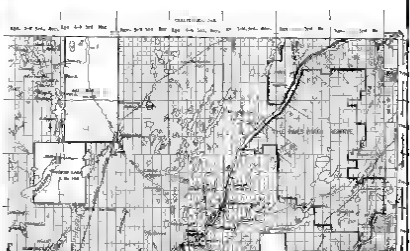
With the occupation of homestead land by white settlers, the Indians slowly withdrew to their designated reserves, the "One Arrow" Indian Reserve No. 95 "Okemasis and Beardy" Indian Reserves Nos. 96 and 97, "Muskeg Lake" Indian Reserve No. 102, "Montaware" Indian Reserve No. 103, and "Young Chippewayan" Reserve No. 107.

Honoring Treaty No. 6, the Commissioners of the Crown on September 1876 in the Carlton Region and at Fort Pitt, negotiated Treaty No. 6, with the Cree, who thereby surrendered the 7 rights to 120,000 square miles.

The Treaty allayed unrest amongst the Indians and assisted the peaceful settlement of this Region.

The dissolvment of the Mennonite and Doukhobor Reserves in the Carlton Region, the removal of ferries (Carlton Petrofka, and Laird) have all become a part of Saskatchewan's early history. Several caves dotting landscapes at local points, and a small historical museum near the Rectory at Batoche, also the reconstruct on of Fort Carlton as a historical park are the only remaining evidence of the past.

There is an old Indian saying: "One day the Buffalo will return and again roam the Western Plains."



Carlton Region, map showing Carlton River Lots 5 Lateens River Lo Indian Reserves, Country Saskatchewan Archives Board.

Region's First Inhabitants

The first inhabitants of the Western Frontier lived in harmony with nature. Through time, these people became known as Indians. Although various people inhabited the Western Frontier the forest plains of Central Saskatchewan and Alberta were inhabited by Plains Wood Swampy and Willow Cree peoples. Their unique way of life was enriched by their skills of hunting and fishing, for sustenance of their livelihood. Their hunting largely depended on the vast Buffalo herds, along with deer moose fowl, and fur bearing animals, for food, clothing, shelter, tools and weapons.

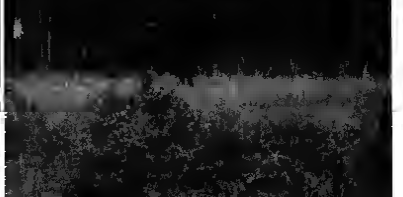
As the white settlers continued to fill the western plains, the Indians came to realize that their way of life, their freedom and their survival was being challenged

Region Photo Saskatchewan Archives Board, S B 6-9

The Indian peoples found it difficult to grow in the shadow with the disappearance of the buffalo herds. The wholesale slaughter of the buffalo by the white man, resulted in the near extinction of the herds that roamed the plains.

Sickness had brought hardships to the Indian people. Small pox, red measles, scarlet fever, typhoid, influenza, and venereal disease, ravaged entire nations. This antecedent was not present among Indian people before the arrival of the white man.

The Government of Canada has acquired control of the North West Territories from the Hudson's Bay Company in 1869.



Buffalo of the Wainwright Buffalo Paining, located at Elk Island Park along Yellowhead Highway No. 16 West, Province of Alberta. Photo dated: 1965

Cree Chiefs representing the district between Fort Carlton and Fort Edmonton, met with Mr. W. J. Christie in April 1871. Christie, a representative of the Hudson's Bay Company, was in charge of a rapidly increasing settlement in the Saskatchewan district. The land question with the new government was not yet clarified, and as a result the Indians opposed the running of speaking wires "telegraph lines", the making of roads and the establishment of white settlements in their country. They asked that both the bringing of spirits into the country and the use of poison in the destruction of animal life be prohibited. They were concerned for what the coming

years would bring to their children, and to the future generations of Indians, a new life was dawning upon them.

Mr. Christie assured the Chiefs that he would forward the message of the Crees to His Excellency Lieutenant-Governor Archibald. Her Majesty's representative at Fort Garry, Red River Settlement, of their concerns.

In response to the message of the Chiefs of the Cree nations, Her Majesty, the Queen, the Great White Mother, Queen of Great Britain and Ireland, mouthed and informed the said Indians, that it was Her desire to cause that tract of country for settlement, and for any other such purpose to meet the needs of Her Majesty and the Government of Canada.

Dealing with the negotiations, the Government of Canada, [illegible] name of the Queen made treaties with the Indian people. By 1875, Treaties 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5 were concluded. The Government of Canada had acquired title to much of the land part of Ontario, Manitoba, and southern Saskatchewan. The remaining area included the traditional lands of the plains tribes, through Central Saskatchewan and Alberta.

In the treaties, the government set aside reserves of land for Indians to live on. The government promised and agreed to provide the Indians with certain rights and goods, for a self supporting community.

In the alliance the Indian nations were required to freely and voluntarily relinquish their natural title privileges, and rights in the specified territory, to the Government of the Dominion of Canada, the Queen and her successors forever, and

Indian Brave. Photo Courtesy Public Archives Canada, C23471

to pledge allegiance to the Crown and forever keep the peace.

Eleven distinct treaties were concluded by the government with the Indian nations between 1871 and 1923, encompassing a geographic area northern Ontario, Manitoba Saskatchewan, Alberta, and parts of British Columbia. Although the terms and conditions of the treaties that were agreed to, were not of uniform nature Treaties 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5 were forerunners to Treaty No. 6.

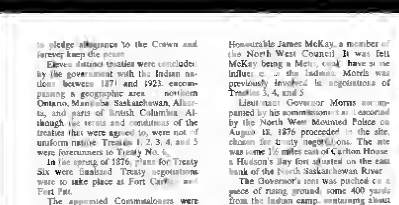
In the spring of 1876, plans for Treaty Six were finalized. Treaty negotiations were to take place at Fort Carlton and Fort Pitt.

The appointed Commissioners were Honourable Alexander Morris, Lieutenant Governor of the province of Manitoba; Honourable W. J. Christie and the Honourable James McKay, a member of the North West Council. It was felt McKay being a Metis, could have some influence over the Indians. Morris was previously involved in negotiations of Treaties 3, 4, and 5.

Lieutenant Governor Morris was accompanied by his commissioners and escorted by the North West Mounted Police on August 18, 1876 proceeded to the site, chosen for treaty negotiations. The site was some 16 miles east of Carlton House a Hudson's Bay fort situated on the east bank of the North Saskatchewan River.

The Governor's tent was pitched on a piece of rising ground, some 400 yards from the Indian camp, containing about 2,000 Indians.

Throughout the negotiations the Indians were addressed as "the Red Children



Indian Encampment Treaty No. Five 1875 on the Pine River Country Saskatchewan Province Prior to A. D. A. C. E.

Indian Encampment near a Treaty Site. Photo Courtesy: Saskatchewan Archives Board. S.B. 4698.

of the Great White Mother the Queen. They were given the opportunity to express their concerns and put forth their requests, and were told of what the government was prepared to promise them. The Indians had little choice but to accept the terms offered. They knew that the land inevitably would be taken from them if they refused.

The Indians were to house Treaty Six by surrendering their rights to 120,000 square miles of their land. Indian lands, now occupied by Crees and other Indian people. In return Her Majesty agreed to lay aside reserves of land for each band of Indians on the basis of one square mile per family of five. The reserves were to be surveyed by the government, for the benefit of the said Indians, and were to be administered by Her Majesty's Government of the Dominion of Canada. In some cases the location of the reserves would be chosen by band leaders.

Indians who would continue cultivating the soil would be provided the necessary hand tools for cultivating and reaping, one plough and two harrows for every three families, four oxen, one bull, six cows, one boar and two sows for each band. Each Chief was given a set of carpenter's tools. Those bands that were planning to cultivate their land would be given enough wheat, barley, oats, and potatoes for planting, and one hand mill, if there was sufficient grain to warrant the machine. This was to be given once only to encourage the practice of agriculture.

Each recognized Chief of an Indian band would receive an annual salary of twenty-five dollars per annum, and each subordinate officer not exceeding one in each band, would receive fifteen dollars

per annum, each Chief would, receive once every three years, a suitable suit of clothing, a suitable flag and medal. Also one horse, harness, and wagon would be provided for each head Chief.

An annual payment of five dollars would be made to every man, woman, and child inhabiting the reserves. Fifteen hundred dollars would be granted annually and divided in the treaty area for the purchase of ammunition and fishing nets.

The Indians would have the rights to pursue their avocations of hunting and fishing throughout the surrendered territory, and would be exempt from regulations enforced by the Government of Canada from time to time.

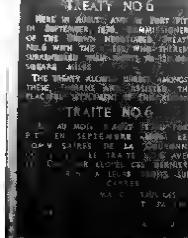
When the Indians settled on a reserve and their children to be taught, the Queen would provide and maintain a school if it was desired. A medicine chest would be kept at the residence of each Indian Agent on a reserve, for the use and benefit of the Indians, at the discretion of the agent.

No intoxicating liquors would be allowed on the reserves, or to other Indians in the North West Territories. Laws would be enforced to prevent the influence of intoxicating liquors.

The Indians would be exempt from military service. Any Indians that would serve in the military on behalf of Canada would do so at their own choice.

The Indians were to promise to abide by the laws in all respect and to maintain peace between themselves and others of Her Majesty's subjects. They would assist Her Majesty's Officers in bringing to justice any Indian offending the stipulations of the treaty, or violating the laws enforced by the country.

Cairn, marks the location of the signing of Treaty No. 6 with the Cree Indians



Cairn location O A M E M. Sec. 35 — Twp. 44 — Rge. 4 — W3rd Mer. R.M. of Buck Lake 61 mtng Highway 2 & 16 Fort Carlton Historic Park Photo Author

On the fourth day of Treaty Six negotiations the Governor addressed the Chiefs and expressed the urgency of acceptance of the terms of the treaty. The treaty would ensure the preservation of the Indian nationhood.

Following his address the principal Chiefs rose and said they would accept the terms of the treaty.

The negotiations at Carlton were conducted with the signing of Treaty Six on August 23 1876, by the Head Chiefs of the Plains and Wood Cree, Mis-sow-ass, and Ah ne-ah-sa-koop, and the remainder of the Chiefs and Councillors. It was also signed by Lieutenant Governor Archibald and his Commissioners, Christie and McKay. The treaty was then witnessed by all other Metis and Whites present at the negotiations.

The Willow Cree and Chief Beardy agreed to the terms of the treaty on August 28th. Those people had earlier objected to the spirit of the treaty by opposing the surrender of the natural title to their traditional tribal lands. They were of the opinion that a land or lease agreement of their lands would be of greater benefit for all Indian nations. The number of these Indians was relatively small and were not in a position to offer much resistance. Reluctantly they signed the treaty.

The Governor and the Commissioners then proceeded to Fort Pitt, where treaty negotiations were concluded with the signing of Treaty Six by the Head Chiefs of the Cree, Chief Sweet Grass and the remainder of the Chiefs and Councillors on September 9 1876.

The duration of Treaty Six is, "For as long as the sun shines, the grass grows, and the river flows.

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Fort La Montée 1797–1820; Carlton House 1810–1856; Fort Carlton 1856–1885

When one stands on the second rise of the River Lot fifth in Twp. 44 Rge. 5 W 3 d Mer. overlooking a section of the North Saskatchewan River flowing in a northeasterly direct on there comes into view a fill maple grove dry ding River Lot 8 in Twp. 44 and R ve. Lot 1 in Twp. 45. Many have questioned the grove's unique location beginning from the edge of the rise of willow and cranberry flats, reaching wes ward for several hundred yards. That is all that remains of a grove that once sheltered the first settlement of the white man called Fort La Montée.

The French fur traders pushed westward by canoe up the North Saskatchewan River into the rich fur bearing

Maple Grove that once sheltered Fort La Montée. Looking N we Lot 8, Twp. 44, Rge. 5 — Wind Mer. and Lot 1 at Twp. 45, Rge. 5 — Wind Mer. Photo Author

areas to trade with the Indians. Fort La Montee meaning stopping place, was constructed by the North West Trading Company in 1797. (The loss ton of the fort site was River Lot Twp 45 Rge 5 W 3rd Mer.). The population of the fort numbered one hundred and forty of which s x y were women and children. The fort was a stopping place for the fur traders who came by canoe, they rented horses at the fort, and proceeded further inland to trade with the Indians. This was also the first sign of agricultural pursuits; corn was grown on the rich soil around the fort. The population of the fort largely depended on pemmican for subsistence of their livelihood supplied by the Indians.

In 1840 the Hudson's Bay Trading Company came was vacated and built a fort on the opposite side of the river some 3 miles downs ream, which was known as Carlton House. In 1850 Carlton House was renamed Fort Carlton a Cree name (PA HON AN IK) meaning watching place. Some three hundred Indians and whites were attached to these forts supplying deer meat, buffalo meat and hide for pemmican and furs for the traders.

Pemmican was made by mixing buffalo meat into long thin strips, then hung on scaffolds made of poles from poplar trees. The meat hung in the sun until dry, pulled into a bundle and tied with leather. It was placed into a large wooden bowl and pounded into powder. Berries were added to the powder and mixed with hot animal fat, then packed into sacks made from buffalo hide. This was permanent, nutrandrus food of the prairie wilderness.

The forts were under constant danger of attack by the Indians. In 1870 the two forts amalgamated, in a common cause against the Indians. Fort La Montee was dismantled and the materials were rafted down the river to Carlton House where more buildings were constructed.

Carlton and the Carlton Trail reading to the east. Photo courtesy Saskatchewan Archives Board. S-B 35

Indians [illegible] Buffalo Meat. Photo Courtesy Public Archives Canada. C-7915

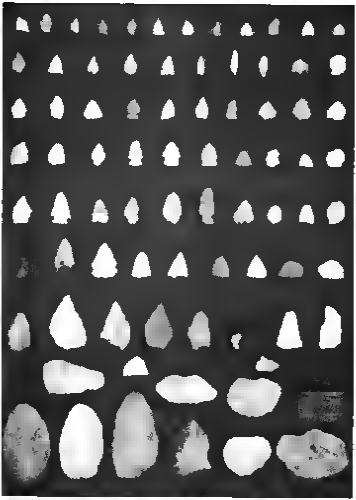
Permanent bowl and pounder at the Historic Park of Fort Edmonton, Alberta. Elena Authier

From the
Diary of Angus MacKay
Fort La Montée, October 12, 1929

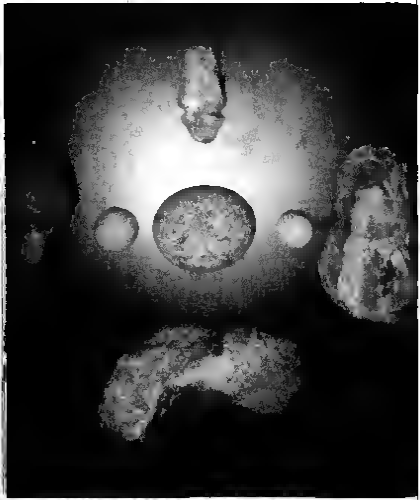
Angus MacKay, President of the Historical Association of Prince Albert, was accompanied by his brother, Mr. George MacKay of Wingard who knew the spot.

We found that one Jack Powell-Cuff owned the land thereabouts so by his permission drove through his fields to the outer lip of the river valley. We ran well higher ground not brought under the plow we crossed to it and soon found out I was the site of the fort we had clear indications of the palisades in different places, there were at least ten cellars and many chimneys, the measurement of the fort was about one hundred and fifty one by one hundred and fifty feet, it stood about two hundred feet from the mud flats of the river where the cows used to flow now overgrown with willow and cranberry bush, the river now flows a sizeable distance away.

By the mid nineteenth century Carlton House was named Fort Carlton. Fort Carlton had become a favorite stopping



A collection of Mousterian artifacts by Agatha Steynitzoff found in the area of La Micoque



A collection of lithic artefacts by Agatha Snapshoff found in the area of Fort La Monier

View of the Carlton River Lots as of the 1870 survey along the River bank of the north Saskatchewan River. group elevation in the background are located in the Village of Carlton from an oil painting by Agatha Stupnikoff

since his many famous travellers, explorers, and missionaries who proceeded westward into the unknown terrain. Pemmican was produced at the fort then shipped overland via the Green lake Trail to Ile-a-La-Crosse and other outlying posts.

In the 1870s many Metis families who were displaced in the Winnipeg area moved to the Fort Carlton area and settled on land that was subdivided into River Lots on either side of the river. This land division had a narrow river frontage which gave the tenants access to use of the river as a source of water supply and also as a route of travel. The Metis families began cultivation of the soil and lived peacefully for several years. When the Hudson's Bay Company sold the West to the Canadian Government uneasiness was created among the Metis families. Signs of unrest became evident under the [illegible] of Gabriel Dumont.

The first force of Royal North West

Mounted Police was stationed at Fort Carlton in 1884, twenty mounties accompanied by their Commander Superintendent L. F. N. Crozier arrived with their wives and children at Fort Carlton December 27 1884 from Regina which they left December 13 1884. Fort Carlton was mysteriously burnt to the ground on the night of March 27 28, 1885 and was not rebuilt. Its personnel was moved to Prince Albert.

Prince Albert Settlement 1862-1890

The area where the city of Prince Albert now stands, was among more than one of many Indian campgrounds along the North Saskatchewan River. It was in June 1862 James Isbister a trapper and interpreter for the Hudson's Bay Company and his Indian wife settled on the south bank of the river which later became the Prince Albert Settlement.

The founder of the Prince Albert Settlement was Reverend James Nisbet Presbyterian Minister from Ontario. He made his regards into the wilderness of Rupert's Land for mission work amongst the Cree Indians. Reverend Nisbet and his party made their journey to Fort Carlton by Red River Cart, from Kildonan, Manitoba, arriving at Fort Carlton on July 17, 1866. The Nisbet party left Fort Carlton July 25 by boat down the North Saskatchewan River. They landed on the south bank of the river on July 26, at a point which is now Central Avenue.

With the rich fertile soil, lush hay stands and an abundance of heavy timber stands, Nisbet was much impressed by the area. His decision was to establish a mission farm and settlement by late fall of 1866. The Nisbet party built two houses.

Nisbet named his new settlement Prince Albert, in honor of the late Consort of Queen Victoria. He also attempted to encourage the Cree Indians to settle around the mission farm.

In 1872 a church was built on the settlement, seating one hundred and twenty people.

The Canadian Pacific Railway survey one came down the North Saskatchewan to chart the river in 1872 for the purpose of steam navigation. The first steam boat arrived at Fort Carlton in 1874.

Nisbet and his wife left the Prince Albert Settlement in 1874 and returned to Ontario.

In 1878 the Prince Albert Settlement was surveyed from the third principal meridian in an easterly direction along the south bank of the river a total of 82 River Lots.

The area of the early settlement was to diminish and a frontier town was at its heyday. The population of the Prince Albert settlement in 1878 was approximately eight hundred and thirty-one people.

By 1880 Prince Albert prospered with various businesses including a brick plant, flour mill, and a new mill. Village buildings stretched for a considerable distance along the south bank of the river front.

Emmanuel College opened in 1886 with classrooms, a library and a Warden's residence. This was the pride of Prince Albert's population who believed this was to be the Queen City of the West. The College was the first to offer high school work with the curriculum of mathematics classical languages, and English. It was attended by boys of various denominations and for the College tuition fees were ten dollars per year boarding facilities were also provided for the students.

The agricultural community surrounding the Prince Albert settlement produced

Wesley Church built by Reverend James Woker in the Prince Albert Settlement, 1872, from an oil painting by Agatha Stupnikoff 1965

some 62,000 bushels of wheat to the fall of 1881 half of the total amount grown in the Territories.

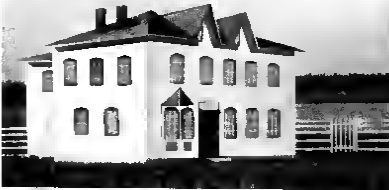
In 882 the Canadian government opened a branch Land Office to serve the region thus replacing Fort Carlton as headquarters for the Lower Saskatchewan District.

The Wood Mountain and Qu'Appelle Railway Company was authorized to build a railroad from the United States border to Prince Albert in 1883. The construction of the railroad never came to reality.

Excessive rains and a heavy frost in 1884 caused a total crop failure. These two factors put the district in a more desperate situation than any other part of the Territories and caused the downfall of Prince Albert and its future growth.

Survey of the area west of the third principal meridian continued in 1883 with parties of surveyors dividing and subdividing the thousand plus into equal parcels of land. This identified each section and quarter section township, and large numerals by in preparation for settlement of agricultural land.

Prince Albert Historical Museum, Photo Credit by Judith Tolmie—reference Board, No. 5.8.5



Emmanuel College first classroom building in the Province. It was located in the Prince Albert Settlement 1869 from an oil painting by Agatha Stupadoff. '66.

N W M P Detachment at Fort Carlton 1884 - 1885 Standing — S M. Dunn, Constables Roberts, Oliver Littlefield Davis C. [illegible] Front Second Row — Constables White Mannery, Smith, Doc Miller Sup. Gagnon Constable Macpherson. Third Row — Constables Flemming Pooh: Dog, Wilmot Carter Photo Courtesy Saskatchewan Archives Board. A-1 E14

Prince Albert, 1885. Photo courtesy Provincial Archives of Alberta. A2167

Through the winter of 1884–1885 the land issue in the Batoche and Fort Carlton region remained unresolved. The Metis together with Louis Riel failed to obtain sympathy from the Canadian government concerning their land claims. The government survey did not conform with the special survey of land known as the River Lots.

A Cree Indian band and a band of Sioux had declared themselves on the Metis side.

The Prince Albert settlement of about one thousand people with its stores and wealthy mixed with vulnerable to attack by the Metis for much needed supplies. A column of North West Mounted Police was dispatched from Regina on March 18, arriving at the Prince Albert settlement on March 24 deterring a possible attack by a Sioux Indian band.

During the Metis unrest at Batoche, Fort Carlton always susceptible to attack was mysteriously burnt to the ground on the night of March 27/28. This forced Commissioner A. G. Irvine, Superintendent Cooper and his forces of Royal North West Mounted Police to retreat to Prince Albert, where they mounted military reinforcements, to suppress the Metis uprising.

The victory at Batoche by the Canadian Militia in May 1885, suppressed the Metis and the Prince Albert settlement gradually returned to normal activity.

A railroad was being built from Regina through Saskatoon to Prince Albert. The first train arrived in Prince Albert on September 4, 1890. From that time river transportation slowly diminished. The beginning of a new era became evident with the influx of settlers into the fertile agricultural region.

Today the city of Prince Albert, located in the heart of the Nisbet Provincial Forest along the North Saskatchewan River has a population of about thirty five thousand in the mid 1980s and may be identified as the gateway to the North.

The City's unique location attracts tourists to the northern resort areas, while the fresh water lakes create a fisherman's paradise.

The residents of Prince Albert host an annual event for several days each February known as "The Prince Albert Winter Festival," commemorating the era of the fur traders and the pioneers.

Carlton Trail 1840–1880

The white man's first route of intrusion into the Western Plains was made by canoe up the rivers which flowed in an easterly direction. Present day travel on the modern highways of our province and our nation is a great contrast to transportation by canoe on the river or by the Red River Cart along the Carlton Trail. As we motor into our neighboring province of Alberta via Trans-Canada to the Banff highway and approach the Eisenhower junction we swing in a south and west direction on Highway 93. Driving this route we approach an area that is a mystery of geographical creation as information board with a legend. The

Continental Divide Photo Author

Duck Lake Regional Historical Museum in the Town of Duck Lake is housed in a large brick building that was constructed in 1914 as a Protestant Separate School. Photo author

"Continental Divide" is a point on the roadbed where the rivers originate and flow in opposite directions, west to the Pacific Ocean and east to Lake Winnipeg. This is the beginning of the Saskatchewan River, forming Rapid River from Rocky Mountain House (Dawson 1887). The riparian Country flowing south and east through the provinces of Alberta and Saskatchewan merging with the south branch and of Prince Albert and draining into Lake Winnipeg, a distance of some 1 205 miles.

The Carlton Trail was the first main overland route before the coming of the transcontinental railway. It bore much of the same relationship to Saskatchewan as did the Oregon Trail to the Pacific North West Region of the United States. The Carlton Trail originated in 1840 following many trails of the Indian fur trader and explorer beginning on Portage Avenue in Winnipeg continuing through Portage La Prairie, Fort Ellice, and Fort Qu'Appelle, crossing the south branch of the Saskatchewan River at Batoche on to Fort Carlton then crossing the North Saskatchewan River at South West (S W) ¼ Section (Sec.) 16 Twp. 45 Rge. 4 W 3rd Mer. wind up past wooded areas and low marshlands in a north and west direction through Twp. 45 just north of the present site of the town of Blaine Lake proceeding westward north of Red

Information Board with a legend, The Carlton Trail, located adjacent to the Duck Lake Regional Historical Museum, Town of Duck Lake, Saskatchewan. Photo Author

Preserve Our Heritage

The Carlton Trail once passed this spot. This was the busiest section of the great overland route linking Fort Garry with Edmonton House during the fur trade era. A foot cart train would make the 900 mile trip in six weeks. The trail played a vital role in the fur trading, freighting, hunting and pioneering life of the northwest until after 1900. Many famous travellers and explorers such as Sir George Simpson, Capt. Palliser, Lord Milton and Dr. Cheadle, Lt. Hunter Sandford Fleming and the "Overlanders" passed by e seeking or leaving the friendly hospitals of Fort Carlton 15 miles northwest. The Battle of Duck Lake occurred on the trail about three miles northwest of here on March 26, 1885. Part of the trail is still used in the Okanese Indian Reserve.

Carlton Trail leading to Carlton House 1871. Pierre Gaumont, Public Archives Canada. C/6426.

Red River cart. Courtesy Provincial Archives of Alberta B5421.

berry Lake bypassing Fort Battleford to the north on to Fort Pitt, and ending at Fort Edmonton.

The principal vehicle used on the Carlton Trail was the Red River Cart. This was a two-wheeled vehicle made of wood. No metal was used in its construction. Shaganappi (Green Buffalo hide) was used to some extent to bind its parts together. The cart had a pair of shafts between which an ox or a pony was placed to pull the cart along. The amount of supplies that could be hauled in one cart was 1/2 ton. The carts travel led in convoys with as many as fifty carts stretched out in single file. When driving over wet terrain they did not track one behind another for fear of the ruts deepening.

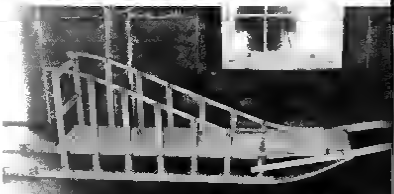
The distance covered in a day's travel under average conditions was approximately 20 miles. Crossing the South and North Saskatchewan Rivers was by scow (a large flat bottom boat which was floated upstream for a ways, then paddled across to an approximate landing site). Crossings were hazardous during times of high water and swift currents of the rivers. Many hardships were encountered along the trail, and fear of attack by the Indians was a constant threat.

The Carlton Trail gave birth to many inland branch trails across the Western Plains. A branch trail in a north west direction from the Carlton crossing that was used by the Hudson's Bay Company to the far north was known as the Green Lake Trail. To many of the area it is

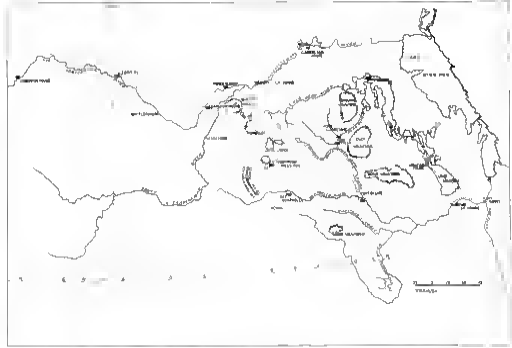
Loading of a Scow on the North Saskatchewan River. Photo Courtesy Provincial Archives of Alberta. 1936-8

Raging on the North Saskatchewan River. Photo Courtesy Provincial Archives of Alberta. B9641

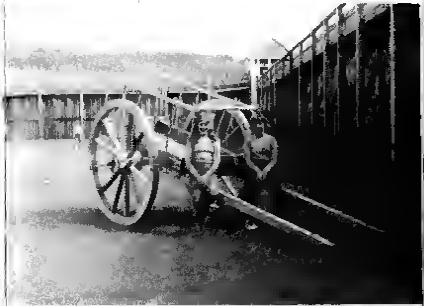
Dog sled on the winter trail. Photo courtesy Provincial Archives of Alberta A3777



Dog Sled in th compound of fort ation ation. Pink Tra ge f a d wa used h winter s ation Trail and trails to outlying posts in the n ik etc. Photo Archi



TRAIL MAP- Based on a map prepared by the Historic Sites Division of the Saskatchewan Government



Red River Cart, within the compound of the Hudson Park. (Trail Carlton, Simpson the shorter) the Carl on wheels, left Moose, Swan Lake, Edmonton Atlantic, Pelly, Last Stone Trail, Embarrow Yorkton Station. Photo Author

knows as the Snake Plain Trail. Travel on the trail during the winter was not extensive mostly by dog sled. When the steamboats made their appearance on the Saskatchewan River the use of the trail slowly diminished.

Steam Boats (Stern Wheelers) on the Saskatchewan 1870-1911

The Hudson's Bay Company knew the open up of its first inland post from the Bay (Cumberland House) in 1774, depended on canoes and later on York boats to transport trade goods and furs out of the vast hinterland.

The York boat (a large boat which was paddled up and down the river by crew is of note from the Hudson's Bay Company) was used for transportation before steam boats came into existence.

Early in the 1870s the Hudson's Bay Company introduced steam navigation on the Saskatchewan River. The first boat was unnamed. It was fully loaded with cargo and was wrecked on the rapids of the river on its maiden voyage. It was soon replaced by the Northcote. A second boat named Lily was assembled above Grand Rapids in 1877. Five years later more boats were added - "Minnitoba" "Northwest" "Marquis," etc.

York Boats under sail. Photo Courtesy, Glenbow Archives, Calgary, Alberta. NA-4201 1

The first York Boats went into service of the Hudson's Bay Company in 1734. They were the biggest freight carrier on the Athabasca, Slave and McKenzie Rivers capable of carrying 4 tons in addition to a crew of eight.

Each boat was provided with one large sail, oars, and ropes with harness for portaging and tracking.

The last Boat went into service with the Hudson's Bay Company in 1923. Thus being part of the river scene for almost 150 years.

York Boat [illegible] the bank of the North Saskatchewan River at the Eastern Portal [illegible] the town of Barrhead, Photo Author

En route westward from Grand Rapids a steam boat would dock at fur trading posts and new farm settlements along the river: The Fort Cumberland House, Prince Albert, Fort Carlton, Fort Battleford, Fort Pitt, and finally dock in Fort Edmonton. The boats brought supplies, traders, explorers, missionaries, surveyors, early settlers, and farm machinery. The trip Eastward bound took two weeks to cover a distance of some 940 miles. A steam boat fully loaded could transport as much cargo to the forts on one trip as could five hundred carts down the trail in one season.

Transportation by steam boat rapidly increased the movement of goods as compared to the overland route. This transportation by water lessened the hardships of transportation of the overland route. This was the beginning of a new era. River navigation was a problem during periods of low water levels. High water levels in the spring and mid-summer provided the best navigation systems. Water levels rose as much as 26 feet above normal which brought the water out to the rim of the river hills.

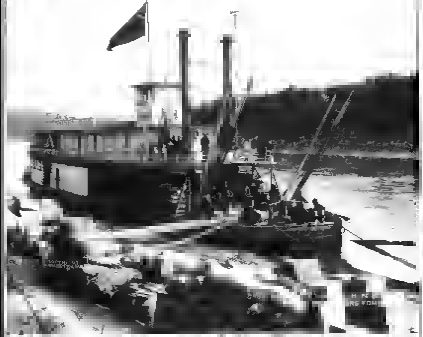
In June 1886 the Northwest left Grand Rapids with a cargo of 250 tons. Fifty tons were landed at Carlton, 15 tons at Battleford, 40 tons at Fort Pitt, 40 tons at

Steam Wheeler on the Saskatchewan River. From a painting by Agatha Stupnicky.

Victoria, and 100 tons at Edmonton. Cargoes consisted of flour, lumber, shingles, farm machinery, merchants' goods, beer and passengers. A cabin fare to Edmonton was fifty-four dollars, and only thirty four dollars if you slept on the deck. The meals were fifty cents.

The early settlers of the Carlton Region depended largely on steam boat navigation for supplies and goods. These were unloaded at Carlton. The early settlers who made entry on land near the river still recall the sight of the steam boats as they navigated up and down the river.

The last of the steam boats operating out of Prince Albert in the last two decades of the twentieth century were "Alberta", "George V", "Saskatchewan," and "Marquis." The Marquis was later beached in Prince Albert, ending an era of steam navigation on the Saskatchewan River.



Hudson's Bay Steamer "Graham" unloading supplies for Edmonton. Photo courtesy Provincial Archives of Alberta B2900.

Side Wheeler on the North Saskatchewan River. Photo Courtesy, Provincial Archive of Alberta B9210.

Surveyors 1857–1904

In the daily operation of their individual enterprise the agricultural people of the prairies seldom pause to contemplate the origination of the numerous identification of each section or quarter section of grain land they occupy. Courageous efforts and sacrifices were made by parties of men the explorers and the surveyors, who brought delicate survey instruments into the prairie region to explore, divide and subdivide the prairies into equal parcels of land over terrain challenging and untamed.

An expedition in October 1857 headed by Thomas Blakiston, brought the first survey instruments by York boat to Carlton House. The expedition also charted the Saskatchewan River.

The Dominion of Canada was a very young nation in 1870 when the gigantic area of Rupertsland previously held by the Hudson's Bay Company was acquired for Canada. Canada's ownership of this territory was essential to attract settlers. Subdivision of land was a necessary prerequisite to homesteading and railway building.

Survey work had started in 1869 in Manitoba under J. S. Dennis. Prior to 1871 only a small area centred on the Red River Settlement had been surveyed. The Dominion government had unfortunately not consulted the Metis. The meander-standage which arose were the basic cause of insurrection known as the Red River Disturbance of 1869–1870 and the North West Rebellion of 1885, which was to delay the surveying of the West.

The Manual of Surveys was issued in 1877. John S. Dennis was appointed Surveyor General of Dominion Lands, as he was largely responsible for the system of Manual Surveys.

The year 1879 also saw the first thirteen parties of surveyors go out to begin the comparable survey task. But not for the Assiniboine River on the prime meridian, he surveyors were to meet the first official instrument.

The surveyor was sent to do field work with traditional instruments of the time, the transit theodolite, the steel band chains (surveyor's chain 66 feet in length), the compass the altrosometric etc.

In 1882 survey parties left Winnipeg to begin the survey of the prairie region. The peak of activity was reached in 1883 a key time to the history of the survey.

The Dominion Lands survey system was a uniform plan. Without question it owed much to the system in use in the United States.

The first phase of survey was to divide the area into townships of 6 miles square. The second phase of the survey divided each township into 36 sections, and the third phase divided the sections into quarter sections of 160 acres. Townships were numbered northward from a base line on the 49th parallel ranges of townships were numbered east and west from the principal meridian known as the Winnipeg Meridian. A fixed road allowance of 1 50 chains in width was provided on all sides of the sections. This was the basic system, and only minor changes were made later in the general pattern.

The first strip of townships lying east

Sandford Fleming expedition surveying for the original C.P.R. route Saskatchewan River — Photo Courtesy Saskatchewan Archives Board R-B-448.

Survey Crew, Pb to Barrhead, C. rly, n Area, Alberta, [illegible]

and west on the international boundary was referred to as "Township number one. Each successive st up to the north of it was numbered in numerical order beginning at several different meridians of longitude. The strips of townships running north and sou h along the west side of the meridian in question were referred to as Rge 1 W 1st W 2nd and W 3rd Mer or as he case may be. The strips of townships to the west of the Second Rge 2, Rge 3 Rge 4 and so on until the next meridian was reached. Stakes were placed at the north and narrow of every section and township with numbers carved on them. Thus after the survey was completed, every indiv dual quarter section n the surveyed portion had its own numerical iden tificatio n.

Survey parties in 1883 were headed by W. A. Ache rnd Henry Selby in the Carlton Region. The first survey of Twps 44-45 Rges 6 7 from the survey records of Henry Selby began on July 15 1884 and was completed on April 1 1885. This involved 140 quarter sections

Because of an Indian uprising throughout the North West and the Rebellion of 1885 Battle of Batoche " surveying was discontinued in that year. A special corps of the surveyors was organized to fight the rebels.

With a victory at Batoche by the Canad an M litia, and the Indian uprising

suppressed throughout the North West surveying of the region resumed and was completed by the year 1904.

Man has left an impression on the landscape in various ways in the prairie region. The prairie checkerboard so evident to a modern air traveller is the legacy of the surveyor. With it could the Dominion Lands Survey was one of the most outstanding achievements in the early part of the nation's history.

Surveyor, Mound and Mona Survey Post of the first survey in, he named, Western Frontier at the N castle Park of Fort Edmonton Alberta Photo Author 1984

Rebellion of 1885 (Metis)

The crisis came when the Hudson's Bay Company sold the West to the Canadian Government. This disturbed the Metis population. The transfer of their land was made without their consultation. Their resentment grew when the government surveyors began chaining across their narrow River Lots threatening their land tenure. These lots had a narrow frontage on the river giving each tenant water rights, access to river transportation and proximity to their neighbors. The Metis feared their language and religion would not be respected by their new land owners. Surveying of land into 640-acre sections would have destroyed the solidarity of the Metis community and would have removed them from their land.

View of The St. Laurent River Lot [illegible] of between 200 rods along the East bank of the Saskatchewan River near the vicinity of the St. Laurent Ferry. Photo Author 1981

When Bill summoned, they came to possess their way of life, their culture, and their community.

Riel and his council. Photo Courtesy Public Archives of Canada. C6841

The Metis disturbed at the refusal of the Canadian government to recognize their problem, sent a deputation to St. Peters Mission in Montana. Louis Riel was recalled to negotiate with the government, to win back the support of the Metis. Louis Riel, a Metis school teacher with his culture and education was able to give his people political leadership. He was concerned by the troubles of his people and he planned to do so. The Metis formed a provisional government with a council of twelve headed by Louis Riel. Gabriel Dumont had been named commander in chief of the Metis forces. He possessed the qualities of a guerrilla leader. Riel worked energetically to solve the Metis problem, but failed to persuade the government to take a different view of the Metis concerns. He was then of the opinion that perhaps a show of strength would persuade the government that the Metis were united and determined to have their grievances adhered to.

Fort Carlton was the first point, was located in an area that was vulnerable to attack, and could no withstand a siege. Prince Albert with its stores and warehouses was tempting for the Metis for much needed supplies.

On March 18, 1885 a column of police left Regina to reinforce the detachment at Prince Albert. This alerted the Metis that a large police force was coming to arrest Riel and his supporters. To forestall the police Rie and his men seized arms and ammunition from two stores at Batoche and took some prisoners, including a magistrate two telegraph operators, and an Indian agent. They then cut the telegraph line between Batoche and Prince Albert and took possession of the Batoche church building as head quarters.

Gabriel [illegible] Plano Country, Saskatchewan, Archives Board, R-A 6277

The police force at Fort Carlton consisted by some eighty volunteers from Prince Albert. Dumont was then of the opinion that Fort Carlton should be attacked immediately. Riel, determined to preserve the Metis' land position, refused Dumont's request. The decision of the council of twelve was to capture the fort without casualties by offering terms of surrender to Superintendent L. F. N. Crozier, commander of the North West Mounted Police (N.W.M.P.) detachment at Fort Carlton.

The mounted police column from Regina arrived at Prince Albert on March 24, a journey of 300 miles, in seven days through severe winter weather. The arrival of the police column warned, if a band of Sioux Indians who had taken refuge on the South Saskatchewan River, threatening to attack Prince Albert.

On March 26, a police patrol from Fort Carlton reported to Crozier that they had been stopped by a large force of Metis who were recovering supplies hidden on an abandoned shore near Duck Lake. Crozier decided to show the Metis that the N.W.M.P. could not be obstructed by armed rebels. The mounted police and volunteers proceeded to disperse the Metis.

The encounter with the Metis two miles from the Duck Lake store was a futile attempt. In a brief battle that lasted about 40 minutes Crozier had to make a difficult and costly retreat under fire. Twelve men had died and eleven were wounded. A bullet had grazed Crozier's cheek. The Metis losses were four dead and Dumont had received a head wound.

While the Metis in the Duck Lake encounter won a military victory they had lost the campaign to gain concessions from the government.

News of the Duck Lake conflict reached Ottawa and another Orange [illegible] after the encounter. Crozier's experience at Duck Lake confirmed Commissioner A. G. Irvine's opinion, that the police force was not large enough to suppress the Metis and should concentrate on the defense of Prince Albert and await reli-

Fig. 1 Lieutenant [illegible] of the North West Mounted Police Rebellion of 1885. Scene from a sketch by Sinclair Brown. Photo courtesy Saskatchewan Archives Board, S-B-6.

DUCK LAKE BATTLEFIELD

HERE, ON THIS MARSH LAND, OCCURRED THE FIRST COMBAT BETWEEN THE CANADIAN GOVERNMENT FORCES, UNDER MAJOR L. N. F. CROZIER, AND THE MÉTIS AND INDIANS UNDER GABRIEL DUMONT.

ICI, LE 26 MARS, EUT LIEU LA PREMIÈRE RENCONTRE ENTRE LES TROUPES DU GOUVERNEMENT DU CANADA, COMMANDÉES PAR LE MAJOR CROZIER, ET LES MÉTIS ET INDIENS COMMANDÉS PAR GABRIEL DUMONT.

Commemorative plaque at the Duck Lake Battlefield Museum

Cairn, trail and plaque at the Okimasis and Beardy Indian Reserve No. 96 and 97 along Highway 312 to Fort Carlton Historic Park. Photo Author

last [illegible] pockets. On the night of March 27 [illegible] artillery was [illegible] and my ten days was down a flutter.

Prime Minister Sir John A. Macdonald dispatched Major Frederick Middleton commander in chief of the Canadian Militia to the West to take command of military operations. The left wing of the 90th Winnipeg rifles, a force of five hundred men, was dispatched by train to the Qu'Appelle station two days before the general's arrival at Winnipeg on March 27.

Having won the Duck Lake encounter, Riel turned to agitate the Indian tribes for an uprising throughout the North West. With numerous Indian uprisings the army would be scattered as they suppressed the disturbances, while trying to protect the settlers at the same time. Riel's plan was to completely destroy the striking force of the Canadian Army. Riel then hoped to capture General Middleton and other senior officers, and force the Canadian government to settle on Metis terms.

Rail planned a great warfare on Batoche headache was the Indians of the Metis, the nucleus of their community, which Dumont was surrounding with well-planned trenches and rifle pits. Thus type of defense called the Metis into a guerrilla type of attack, and they were compelled to fight a conventional battle against an armed force that was superior, both in equipment and training for warfare of this type.

Middleton and his troops began their march from Fort Qu'Appelle on April 10 toward Batoche. Another column from Swift Current at three hundred troops under the Command of Lieut.-Col. W. D. Otter of Toronto was moving up to join him at Clarke's Crossing. The combined force was to proceed to the Batoche.

An artillery duel broke out the other in the West of Batoche. The Cree and Assiniboine Indians united and occupied Fort Battleford while one hundred inhabitants and settlers took refuge in the N. W. M. P. fort. Cree Indians also attacked Fort Pitt in Whitebear Bay post between Fort Battleford and Fort Edmonton and forced its abandonment. Instead of joining Middleton troops to attack Batoche, Otter received orders to advance to Fort Battleford.

On April 23 Middleton's troops marched from Clark's Crossing. During it knowing the size of Middleton's army knew he Metis could not hold out at Batoche against such a force. Indians and Metis led by Dumont attempted guerrilla tactics by scaling up an ambush in a ravine at Fish Creek to demoralize the troops. The surprise attack was lost when Middleton's scouts spotted some Indians who left their pony ties prematurely.

Middleton's force repelled the ambush but suffered casualties in that encounter. Ten soldiers were killed and forty were wounded. Dumont's losses were eleven killed and eighteen wounded. This halted Middleton's advance in Batoche for some two weeks, to await reinforcements and evacuate the wounded.

When Middleton resumed his march to Batoche, he had a "navy" the Hudson's Bay steamer "Northcote," that arrived on May 9 after a long delay.

The steamer was unable to make quick passage due to low water. While moving downstream in the narrow encountered heavy rifle fire from Metis and Indians hidden in the river bank at the Gabriel's Ferry Crossing. This caused the captain to lose control of the wheel and the boat drifted into a ferry cable that was previously lowered by the Metis. The cable ensnared off the upper deck, the smoke stacks, and the whistle, that was to be used as a signal to him in touch with the movement of the troops.

The arrival of the steam wheeler brought supplies, reinforcements, scouts, and a Gatling gun. Gatling gun was a quick fired gun, first to use manual rotation when armed by a crank firing five hundred rounds a minute. The gun was loaned by a Fire Arms Company in Hartford Connecticut, for use in the campaign. The gun was manned by Captain A. L. Howard and a gunner of the United States army by an ordnance storatore the Gatling machine gun.

On May 10 the Northcote was joined by the "Marquis" another Hudson's Bay Company boat in the Hudson's Bay Ferry Crossing below Batoche. After several more embarrassing delays, they too boats reached Batoche. However by then the battle was all over.

The Battle of Batoche was fought on the outskirts of the village where the Metis had built a six mile defense system of rifle pits and trenches commanding all entry routes. Thirty rows of rifle-pits were arranged in a semi-circle. In each row there were from five to twenty fi e well dispersed pits. Above the pits was a breastwork of earth rocks, and slotted logs for firing. This was camouflaged by small branches thrus in the logs.

Some three hundred Metis and Indians led by Louis Riel and Gabriel Dumont defended Batoche. The Metis, except for a few Winches of repeating rifles, were armed with muzzle loaders, firing either ball or shot. The North West Field Force

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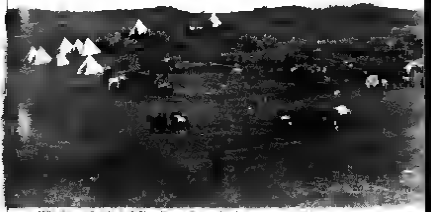


Métis Camp at Batoche, 1885. Photo Courtesy Provincial Archives of Alberta, A 5581.

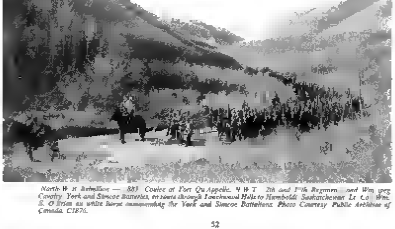
Summer's Dairy, Spring, 1885, on the South Branch of the Saskatchewan River. In the farm housing the Hudson's Bay Company Northcote commissioned boats ride out from sudden Métis and Indian attack during the Battle of Batoche, May, 1885. Photo Courtesy Saskatchewan Archives Board R H.597

of eight hundred troops under the command of Major General Frederick Middleton attacked Batoche. The troops were armed with single shot Sniders, a weapon that was superior by having much greater range.

The Metis, after three days of battle, were reduced to charging their muskets loaders with nails, tacks, and gravel. The battle ended the Metis resistance. They retreated into the woodland and slowly surrendered to the Canadian troops. Riel surrendered to three of Middleton's scouts on May 15 1885. On August 1 1885 Riel was found guilty of treason and was executed by hanging at the Mounted Police barracks in Regina on November 16, 1885. On December 9, Riel's body was transported to St. Boniface Manitoba, in a ... River the palace of his birth and he spent ... of his greatest political triumph. He was a Provisional Governor of Manitoba and after confederation was elected as Member of Parliament, although he had never taken his seat. Louis Riel is buried in the grounds of the Basilica in St. Boniface.

Dumont escaped to Montana. A short time later in July 1886 the Canadian government granted Dumont a full pardon. He returned to Batoche in 1890 and found that Middleton's troops had destroyed his home and burnt his house. He built a cabin on the farm where he continued a quiet life of hunting, fishing, and trapping. He passed away in 1906, and was buried at Batoche in the cemetery adjacent to the Rectory.

After the Metis defeat in Batoche, the troops were occupied suppressing the ... in Saskatchewan through the summer. By the



North West Rebellion — 503. Cooke at Fort Qu'Appelle. N.W.T. 7th and 9th Regiments and Winnipeg Cavalry York and Simcoe Battalion, en route through Touchwood Hills to Humboldt, Saskatchewan Lt. Col. Wm. E. O'Brien on white horse commanding the York and Simcoe Battalions. Photo Courtesy Public Archives of Canada, C1870.

and of the stalwart the soldiers of the North West Field Force returned to their homes. They were offered a choice of swards land grants of 329 acres or a special campaign medal and eighty dollars if they preferred such. General Middleton received twenty thousand dollars as a reward from the Canadian Parliament and was knighted by the Queen.

With the defeat at Batoche, pride self-confidence and the spirit of the Metis was shattered. Them las stand as a distinct and united people was destroyed with the North West Rebellion in May 1885. The Metis, like the Mountaineer the Indian were naturally equipped for life on the Western Frontier. The superiority of the Metis on the Western Plains had

Peter Ballendine (left). Riel a prisoner, 1885. Photo Courtesy, Public Archives of Canada.

From the Canadian Pictorial and Illustrated War News Souvenir ... August 9, 1919, p. 16. Photo courtesy Saskatchewan Archives Board, Reg. A-...

Louis Riel's Monument at the grounds of the Basilica St. Boniface, Manitoba. Photo Courtesy Saskatchewan Archives Board R-A 4046.

Admiral Dewey Monument A.D. 1906 in the Bulach Cemetery adjacent to the Rue de Notre Dame Basilica 1913.

North-West Rebellion — 1885: Riel addressing the Jury in Court House, Regina, Saskatchewan. Photo Courtesy Public Archives of Canada. C. B.9

North West Mounted Police Detachment at Batoche BY *Photo Courtesy Saskatchewan Archive Board S-878.*

goose. The Frontier was a land where the Metis belonged but were displaced with the opening of the land to trade and settlement.

The government belatedly allowed the special survey of the River Lots in certain, offering Metis land or money scrip. Not all Metis remained to benefit, many that had taken land scrip passed it over when a speculator offered a cash payment. A land title had no meaning to the Metis, as individual ownership of land was not a part of Metis culture.

Some Metis, in later years, prospered as farmers and merchants. A large number holding to their culture, were unwilling or unable to adapt. They remained on sub-marginal land and received no consideration as a distinct and separate people. With their future insecure, they attempted to resort to the new conditions of settlement.

The land issue with the Metis was not the real problem. The Metis went down in history like other men asking their lives, protecting their way of life, their culture, and their community. It all ended for the Metis with the Battle of Batoche.

Bauche Church, Rectory and Corn Rotunda. National Historic Site. Photo Author 198

A typical Western Scene. Photo Author 1984.

St. Laurent Ferry, on the South Saskatchewan River. Photo Author 1984.

Early Settlers, Mennonites 1874-1920

The Early Settlers who pioneered into the agricultural frontier of Western Canada were of many cultural and ethnic origins.

One must consider the impact of the variations in the settlers customs, beliefs and values and their social environment which influenced settlement and decision making. Much has been made of the action of ethnic groups molding landscapes into distinctive cultural landscapes of the Prairie West. Although many groups participated in creating ethnic communities, each in their distinctive varying way the groups that extracted concessions from the government, which allowed them to seek expressions of their beliefs and practices in the landscape they produced, were the "Old Colony" Mennonites and people of Doukhobor Faith. The government allowed such groups to settle "en bloc" of land some similarity of belief as was the basis of the unique aspects of her settlement.

The aspects of Christian beliefs in an old world settlement pattern finds its origins in Medieval Europe. Since 1868 a clause of the Militia Act allowed pacifist citizens, by reasons of Faith be exempt from military service.

The Mennonite migration to Canada began in the 1870's By the year 1900 some eight thousand Mennonites had migrated to Canada in separate groups. They were assured of religious freedom free of civil local his interest by the Canadian government. Thus was the beginning of a new frontier of group settlement, in the untamed wilderness of the Western Prairies.

The first Mennonite group to migrate to Canada settled on a block of land, of some eight townships, in the province of Manitoba. The older and even numbered sections were for homestead entry by the Mennonites, excluded were all the Hudson's Bay lands within that block. The reserve was located east of the Red River and was known as the East Mennonite Reserve. As the migration continued the land in the said reserve became exhausted. A second reserve was established by the government in the south west portion of the province known as the West Mennonite Reserve, which consisted of some seventeen townships, west of the Red river along the 49th parallel.

The completion of a railroad from Regina, through Saskatoon, to Prince Albert in 1890, by the Qu'Appelle Long Lake, Saskatchewan Railroad Company began an era of massive taxation and emigration on into he Carlton Region. The Duck Lake Post Office was established in 1879 on North East (N.E.)¼ Sec. 33 Twp 43 Rge. 2 W3rd Mer. The postmaster was Albert Scott. In 1885 postal duties were taken over by Joseph Mchelli who operated the post office until 1895 when it was closed due to the North West Rebellion. The post office was again re-opened in 1898 with Ambrose Fiske as postmaster. The Sobar Post Office served the Carlton Region, prior to the coming of the railroad.

The 1890 era saw the establishment of a water tank along the newly constructed railroad. This was to be a source of water supply for the steam locomotives operating on the railroad. The water tank was

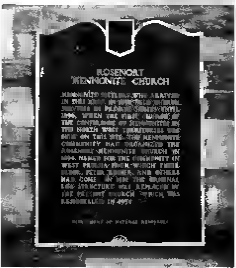
Mennonite Village Reinfeld, Manitoba, 1892. Photo Courtesy Mennonite Archives, Winnipeg, Manitoba

located in an area on the North West (NW) of Sec 35 Twp 02 Rg 3 W 3rd Mer. A sign post was erected with a name plate, arranged Northern identifying the location. With a continuing migration of Mennonites to Canada and a general increase in population, the land made available in the Manitoba Reserve became overcrowded.

In 1891 Mennonite families numbering some one hundred and forty people came west by railroad in search of new homestead land and settled in the Northern area.

The Rosebery Post Office was established in 1893 with Gerhard Ens as postmaster. This post office and general store that were operated by Mr. Ens were located in a house, loaned by the Railway Company. This was the beginning of homestead settlement of the Northern area by land seeking Mennonites.

On a report, dated 26th December 1894, from the Minister of the Interior stating that it has been represented on his own behalf of the Mennonite Settlers in Manitoba, that there was Reserves in the Province now overcrowded, owing partly to the influx of



R[illegible] Laure[illegible] who arrived [illegible] 1892 to d[illegible] ...rt with Russia. In [illegible] the Conferen[illegible] ...ttle Creek Mission, [illegible] etc. The Men[illegible] ...ion had organized Ro[illegible] Mennonite Church in [illegible] ...ommunity of their former home which their elder Peter Reyna[illegible] ...he had come. In 1903, the original log structure was replac[illegible] ...by the present church which was remodelled in 1956.

Department of Natural Resources, 1985.

Rosenort Mennonite Church is located on site adjacent to the Rosenhorn Mennonite Church, along Highway 3 2 0 in the West of Rosthern, Saskatchewan Prince Albert

Cross, commemorating Gerhard Ens, located in the Town of Rosthern, Saskatchewan.
Photo Author

...ion fellow-countrymen from the United States and Europe and partly in the natural increase which the latter place since their first settlement in Manitoba and that, in order to meet the growing needs of their families, and to encourage the settlement of their fellow-countrymen in Canada it becomes necessary for them to ask the Government to establish a reservation for them from lands in the Prince Albert District.

The Petition further states that for this purpose they request that the even-numbered sections in the following townships be reserved viz: Township 40, in Ranges 3, 4 and 5 and Township 41 in Ranges 3 and 4 West of the 3rd Meridian.

The Minister observes that this principle of establishing reserves in a block of land for settlement by Mennonites on their own application by an Order in Council of the 3rd of March, 1875, within an area of nine Townships East of the Red River in the Province of Manitoba, for the purpose, and that a second Reserve for the same purpose was established West of the Red River by a subsequent Order in Council, dated the 20th of April, 1876.

There are two reasons, however, to...
of both the odd and even-numbered sections in the Townships set apart, wherein the present application has been made for reserves on the even-numbered sections only: the intention of the Mennonites being to arrange for the purchase of the odd numbered sections from the Railway Company for which they are now set apart as a subsidy.

The Minister further states that these people have prospered to a remarkable degree since they arrived in this...
and finished with regular good faith all the obligations undertaken by them in this...
ordinary requiring in accordance with...
many years to...
and fully complying...
the descent settlers. They represent that it is now their intention to assist with their own means their fellow countrymen, in Europe and elsewhere, to remove to and settle upon the tract now applied for, and that fifty families, whose they expect in the Spring, will go direct to the proposed Reserve, if the...
made available for the purpose.

The Minister is of opinion that it is important to the public interest, that the efforts of the Mennonites to...
the immigration of their friends in Europe and elsewhere to the North West, should be encouraged, and to do this it is necessary to give the intending settlers an assurance that they will be enabled to carry out the principles of their Social System, and to settle together as families free from intrusion as made by Section 74 of the Dominion Lands Act) by obtaining grants for contiguous lands.

The Minister with this view recommends Council to authorize the...
Reserve for...
Mennonites only the even-numbered sections (exclusive of Indian Reserves) in the Township's Lands in the following Townships, so as they may be at the disposal of the Government, viz: Township 40 in Ranges 3, 4 and 5 and Township 41 in Ranges 3 and 4 West of the 3rd Meridian.

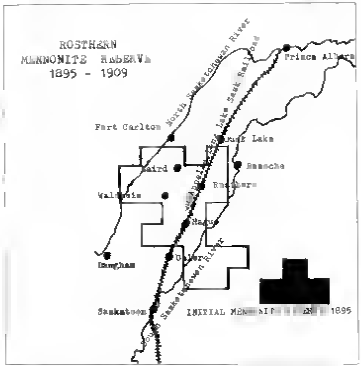
The Committee submit the foregoing for Your Excellency's approval.

Certified by Privy Council.

Early Settlers Temple a... Quarter... Group of Early W... R. Roberts Mennonites R.C.... Boy... Quarter...
Saskatchewan Archive Board. N.W. Private. 983 p. 49 Photo. Source. Hollis Bateman. Other. Yorkton Herald.

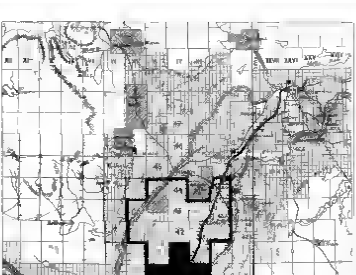
In the year 1895 the Rhineland Mennonite Association made application for reserve land in the Hague-Osler area. The government granted a reserve of four townships North of Saskatoon, along the railroad in the Hague-Osler area. The reserve was located in Twp. 40 Rge. 5 3 and Twp 41 Rge 4, all West of the Third Principal Meridian. An additional township was also added to the initial reserve, Twp. 41 Rge 3 W.3rd Mer. All the even numbered sections were for settlement by the Mennonites, the odd numbered sections were granted to the railway company also excepted were all Hudsons Bay lands.

By the year 1897 approximately two thousand Mennonites settled in the initial Rosthern Reserve. This exhausted all available land and an additional nineteen townships were reserved by the government. The additional townships were clustered around the initial reserve. The Mennonites were also allowed to reach an agreement with the Qu'Appelle, Long Lake Saskatchewan Railway Company



Map Showing, Rosthern Mennonite Reserve

Eyebrow Mennonite Church, located along Highway 317 9 km West of the Town of Rosthern, Saskatchewan. Photo: Author



Map showing Northern Manitoba in reserve. Courtesy Public Archives Canada.

for the purchase of the odd-numbered sections. This was to insure a place for all Mennonites in the reserve.

The village settlements in the Rosthern Reserve were of the Strassendorf pattern, similar to the settlements of the Manitoba Reserves, a pattern of Old World settlement.

The term Strassendorf refers to the village pattern which consists of one street, with individual lots on either side. An individual lot was large enough to contain all farm facilities, including connected house and barn, livestock facilities, machinery storage, and garden plots.

The Mennonite families pooled their quarter sections of homestead land, numbering from eight to thirty families. Within that block of land they located their village. They co-operatively purchased that portion of land (approximately ½ section to 1 sq. mi., depending on the size

Mennonite arriving in Rosthern by train from Russia. Photo Courtesy: Saskatchewan Archives Board. Photograph No. S. B 47-6.

Monastère Saint-Joseph (1[illegible]) [illegible] A. A. Canada PA-[illegible]

From Kansas Returned and Married in 89
From the story of J. J. Dyck. Here we acquired land and the Lord blessed the labor of our hands with earthly goods. We suffered, were no more. We offered thanks to the Lord. We learned to acknowledge His will through His word. Photo and Diary Source, Grandchildren, A. H. Dyck Family.

of the village. The property was deeded to their church as the village organization. This was to insure that the system would be maintained as an individual withdrawal.

Although lumber was available few were able to afford it. The village dwellings were built from notched poplar logs, smoothly plastered with a mixture of clay mud, and straw. The roofs were thatched with straw or sod to complete the dwellings.

The first group of Mennonites that settled in the Rosthern Reserve, received aid from the government in the form of a loan, for the purchase of supplies, machinery and seed. The groups that followed were then assisted by the former group.

The first flour mill was erected in Rosthern in 1896. Prior to that time the Mennonite settlers greatly depended on the Prince Albert settlement for much needed goods and supplies such as seed grain, flour, lumber etc.

By 1904 most of the Rosthern Reserve was settled and some thirty-one villages made their appearance in the reserve as follows:

Grunfeld	Steinreach
Schoenwiese	Lake Park
Orlumthal	Edenburg
Rheinland	Schmiedeburg
Newhorst	Silberfeld
Blumenthal	Hallstatt
Hochstadt	Blumenfeld
Neuanlage	Hoffnungsort
Rheinnuthmen	Steinbach
Chortitz	New Home
Kronsthal	Neuhoffnung
Rosenfeld	Rosengrat
Osterwyck	Rosenbach
Hochfeld	Schoenthal
Rheinfeld	Blumenart
Ogilvidale	

Rosthern Mennonite Church

Mennonite House and Attached Barn, Hepburn Mennonite Reserve. Photo Courtesy, Saskatchewan Archives Board, S-B 4577. Photo Source: J. J. Neufeld, Rosthern, Saskatchewan.

Mennonite Settlement, Blume Bay, C. W. D., with a piggery, winter fuel stack. Photo courtesy Saskatchewan Archives Board, R-A 2-53.

In 1904 the Rhineland Mennonite Association of Manitoba was looking more agricultural land for its people. Their request for land south of the town of Swift Current was granted. The Minister of the Interior, Clifford Sifton, reserved a township, for the Swift Current Mennonite Reserve.

Due to subsequent political changes, government interference was evident in the Mennonite Reserve Settlement in 1905. The government made available for general settlement all the land that was not occupied by Mennonites, thus shrinking all reserve boundaries. The interference in the German schools, by replacing them with English speaking public schools proved unbearable to many of the conservatively minded "Old" Colony Mennonites as German instruction would preserve Mennonite culture. In 1922 some five hundred and fifty left the Northern Reserve and migrated to Mexico, and to parts South America.

The Mennonites that remained continued to farm with some fanning moving to their individual homesteads while others lived in the villages and each farmed their individual land.

Mennonite Settlers Inquire for Work at Railway Construction Camp, Saskatchewan Archives Board Photograph No. S-B45

Early Settlers, Doukhobors 1899–1907

The government concessions made to the Mennonites and the experiment of settling the prairies with communities of experienced agricultural people proved satisfactory to the government. The government entered similar concessions in the Russian Doukhobors prior to their migration to Canada in 1899.

The plight of a group of religious pacifists, who were under oppressive and severe persecution in Czarist Russia, attracted the attention of Count Leo Tolstoy and the Society of Friends in England and America. With help and the mass migration of Doukhobors to Canada was to begin. The group of God fearing people were willing to endure the hardships of a new beginning. The open and unstirred Canadian prairies were be new homeland where the Doukhobors hoped to live within their beliefs, free of oppression.

On a Report dated 30th November 1898, from the Minister of the Interior stating the arrangements have been completed with Mr. Arthur Maude, of London England, his request at we of the rest of Russian known as Doukhobors who now inhabit the shores of the Caucasus in Russia, for the immediate emigration to Canada of seven thousand of their people. That from a despatch dated 27th May 1898, addressed to the Foreign Office by Her Majesty's Consul at Batoum, would appear that since their settlement in the region of the Caucasus, the Doukhobors have by their good behavior, diligence, sobriety and hard working qualities, brought comfort by prosperity to the barren locality in which they were originally settled, but in from religious doctrines they are averse to bearing arms, an exemption which the Russian Government has refused to most fervently, they have been pe re ed to the future to depart from Russia.

The minister under the circumstances, and considering that the Doukhobors would appear to be a most desirable class of settlers to locate upon the vacant Dominion Lands in Manitoba and the North West Territories, if in opinion that the Canadian Government would give them the full assurances of absolute immunity from military service in the event of their so doing in her country.

The Minister submits that Sub Section 3 of Section 2 of the Militia Act, Chapter 41 of the Revised Statutes of Canada, does not in the following provisions.—

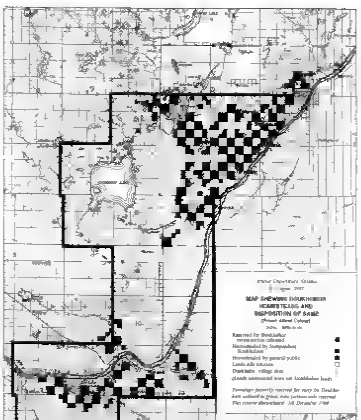
Every person bearing a certificate from the Society of Quakers, Mennonites or Tunkers, and every inhabitant of Canada, of any religious denomination, otherwise subject to service duty, who, from the doctrines of his religion, is averse to bearing arms and refuses per sonal military service, shall be exempt from such service when authorized at time of peace or war upon such conditions and under such reg ulations as the Governor in Council from time to time prescribe.

The Minister recommends that under the power vested in His Excellency in Council by his above provision, the Doukhobors, residing permanent ly in Canada, be exempt absolutely and unconditionally from service in the Militia, upon the production in each case of a certificate of membership from the proper authorities of their community.

The Committee submits the same for Your Excellency's approval.

Doukhobors were adapted to a communal lifestyle and were experienced farmers. Being vegetarians they depended largely on the skill of their gardening ability.

The agreement under which the Doukhobors came was not completely explained in detail. Misunderstanding on



Prince Albert Doukhobor Reserve, map showing Doukhobor Village Sites, and Doukhobor lands. Courtesy, Saskatchewan Archives Board.

both sides, especially in land regulations, eventually resulted in the dissolution of the reserve.

The migration of some seven thousand four hundred Doukhobors began in December 1899. Two ships were commissioned for their transfer to Canada, the Huron and Lake Superior. These two ocean freighters were converted to accommodate the Doukhobors in their strenuous ocean voyage to the eastern Canadian port of Halifax.

The first contingent of Doukhobors arrived at Port of Halifax in January 1899. As the Doukhobor arrival was during the winter months, they proceeded West by train. All were housed in Immigration halls in Winnipeg, Brandon, Dauphin Selkirk, and Yorkton areas.

The concessions were No. 7 "Militia Act" concerning total exemption from the militia. No 2, Homes Act" which allowed the building of villages, each village to consist a settlement of not less than twenty families. They were allowed to settle in villages and make application to be homestead within a radius of 9 miles including rural allowances which increased the radius to 14 miles. The Doukhobors were assured that they would not be required to reside and voluntarily on homesteads, as they were not accustomed to living on and valued farms. Assurance was given that there would be no government interference into the internal organization of their community.

In the early spring the Doukhobor men began the construction of villages in the two Doukhobor Reserves in the Yo kton area. The North Colony or the Ass mboin area some 70 miles North of Yorkton was a reserve of six townships. The South Colony was some 30 miles North of Yorkton a reserve of fifteen townships. With the even numbered sections for settlement by the Doukhobors, the odd-numbered sections were reserved by the Government for selection by the railways. Some six thousand Doukhobors had arrived in he first three contingents settled in villages on the two reserves in the Yorkton area in 1899.

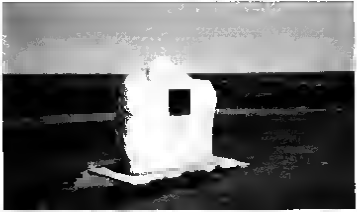
The last of the three contingents arrived in Halifax in June 1899. They proceeded by train to Winnipeg where they were housed in immigration halls. The Doukhobors men worked on the railway gangs in the Winnipeg area for several months. The destination of the group was to the North-West Colony in the Carlton Region, the Prince Albert Doukhobor reserve, a reserve of twenty townships, located from the west bank of the North Saskatchewan River borders by the north boundary of Twp 44, stretching West to include Rges. 5-6 W 3rd Mer. then a township line due South, crossing the North Saskatchewan River at Twp. 35 – Rge. 11 – W 3rd Mer. thence running some three town ships from the east bank of the river to Twp. 30 Rge. 7 10 in the Langhorne area.

The group of some one thousand five hundred and fifty people, after their stopover in Winnipeg, proceeded West by train to settle in the Prince Albert Reserve They arrived at the Duck Lake station in the month of November with their meager belongings they had brought from Russia. The group spent a long and harsh winter sheltered in makeshift homes and tents, in the Duck Lake and Carlton Regions, with assistance from the Society of Friends, "Quakers," who sent vital supplies of food and clothing, for them survived through the first winter on their new frontier

The settlement of the Prince Albert Reserve began in the early spring of 1900. The settlers were enclosed in the forest at the Carlton Crossing, Sec. 5 Twp. 45 Rge. 4 W 3rd Mer. which was now served by a cable guided ferry as compared to the hazardous crossing of the canoe York boat, and Scow This cable ferry serving the area, was operated by Mr Modeste Bonnasa under contract with the government. Traffic on the ferry in 1898 was 5,500.

The construction of villages on selected sites began in the years 1900-1902. The selection of village sites was made by

Doukhobor Village from an old painting by Agatha Shapnikoff


DOUKHOBOR HERITAGE
IN 1899 A GROUP OF DOUKHOBORS FROM
RUSSIA ESTABLISHED THE FIRST VILLAGE
OF KERILOVKA ½ MILE WEST OF HERE.
THE SECOND VILLAGE OF OSCHANOVKA
5 MILES NORTH - WEST AND THE THIRD
VILLAGE OF POKROVKA 11 MILES WEST
THESE SETTLERS, SEEKING RELIGIOUS
FREEDOM THRIVED DESPITE SEVERE
HARDSHIPS, DEPRIVATIONS AND EXILE
THIS PLAQUE IS DEDICATED TO THE
FIRST PIONEERS AND ERECTED BY THE
DOUKHOBOR SOCIETY OF
LANGHAM

Cairn commemorating Doukhobor siege in Ottawa, in the Southern portion of the Prince Albert Doukhobor Reserve, Langham area. 1965-1967
Cairn localion first bit west of the town of Langham, along Highway No. 16, Yellowhead. Photo Arthur 1983.

DOUKHOBOR RESERVES

LIST OF VILLAGE SITES TO BE SURVEYED AND SUBDIVIDED INTO LOTS

PRINCE ALBERT RESERVE

Name of Village	Location	Area of site and remarks
Kar owa	N W 14 38-8-3	To be det ned
Bodanelka	N W 20 38-8-3	To be det ned
Pakrotka	W ½ 4 39-8-3	20 acres
Petrofka	W ½ of N W 30 42-8-3	80 acres except 2 90 ac reserved thereout for School site
Onepannie	S E 44-8-3	20 acres Balance of ¼ entered for
Slavonka	N E 17 44-8-3	20 acres. Balance of ¼ entered for
Spasitka	N E 14 45-8-3	20 acres Balance of ¼ entered fo
Pasar olka	S W 27 44-7-3	20 acres Balance of ¼ entered for
Large Hrestelka	E ½ of S W 35 44-8-3	80 acres.
Small Hrestelka	N W 31 44-7-3	20 acres.
Tre tekas	W ½ 2 44-7-3	20 acres.
Tergann e	S W 22 43-8-3	20 acres.

Typical Doukhobor Dwellings, houses and barns, erected on sites of the villages of Petrofka, Onepannie and Slavonka, Prince Albert Reserve, as given located on S.E.¼ Sec. 29 Twp. 44 Rge. W 2nd Mer. in the N.W. of Prince Lodi. (C.E. Fromenteau del. photo. Aug. 24, Shepherd.)

Early Settlers plastering a log house with a mixture of clay mud and straw. Photo Courtesy, Saskatchewan Archives Board. S-A 179

Dugout Home on Saskatchewan, typical home of the early settlement. 900 190 Photo Courte y Saskatchewan Archives Board S B 1954

Ani [illegible] wife. Just be you [illegible] Ani wo ne [illegible] ntoma wodee ho hyia [illegible] ne ho nsa. Nie is wearing a wedding gift of the Akan of her other friend, stanching her Arms Pic A 1857 Tiddlerama Ayakkohow dress was hand sewn from material which was from home spun wool and home woven linen. Photo Author '854.

Doukhobors who preferred villages sites close to heavily wooded areas with water that would provide a sufficient amount of good quality water for the villagers The wooded areas were to be a source of building logs for the village dwellings.

During that period twelve Doukhobor villages made their appearance with nine of the villages located in the area that is now the Rural Municipality of Blaine Lake #434 — Pozrenka, Spasobka, Large Hazelerka, Small Hazelerka, Terjorenka, Troitzkaa, Pozarenka, Osipenoe, and Slavenka.

The remaining three villages were situated on the south boundary of the reserve, on the opposite side of the river along the east bank to the Langham now Kuzkowa, Bodrenoffka and Petrovka.

The villages were laid out in the same pattern as they were in Russia, also acquiring the former village names that certain groups of villagers had formerly lived in. The village had a long street with houses built on either side but from town ops smoothly p ssened with a mixture of clay mud, and straw. The roofs were thatched with sod to complete the dwelling. Livestock localities were also constructed in the same manner within the village area. The villages consisted of approximately fifteen homes per village, with each house large enough to accommodate up to ten families. The population of each village was approximately one hundred and twenty people. Petrovka was one of the first villages built on the west bank of the North Saskatchewan River. Sec. 20 Twp. 43 Rge. 6 W 3rd Mer. It was one of the focal points in the history of the province.

Self-sufficiency helped the Doukhobors survive during the first years. The cultivation of land as a communal lifestyle began in the year 1900, with some 123 acres cultivated. Hand-guided plows were made by the villagers and drawn by oxen. Furniture was made out of hand-hewn wood. Utensils such as spoons were also carved out of wood. Spinning of linen thread that was later woven on home made looms was made into homespun cloth. Spinning of wool for hand-knitted garments was made into sweaters, stockings, mitts, gloves, etc.

Grist mills for the grinding of grain into flour were built near the villages of Terjorenka, Spasobka, and Hazelerka. The Terjorenka Grist mill was powered by a water wheel, from a creek which was flowing through N W ¼ Sec 16 Twp. 42 Rge. 6 W 3rd Mer. that merged with the North Saskatchewan River. The residents of the area at the time named it Radouga Creek, symbolic of a rainbow.

The year 1902 marked the turn of events in the Doukhobor community. A number of farms for producing economic independence to his community as a lifestyle left the villages and made entry on homestead lands. Conforming to the Homestead Act they commenced living independently. They were so called the "Independent Doukhobors."

Sunday Activities at Patrolles Village Saskatchewan 1903-04. Photo Courtesy Provincial Archives of British Columbia. C1673.

Women, [illegible] in 1916 [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

Form 5
903-1

No. 2252

APPLICATION FOR A HOMESTEAD ENTRY BY AN AGENT

I, G. Eva, do hereby apply to behalf
of Semen Pastukoff of the village of
Rostern in the County of of Ukaina 50 of the Province
for Homestead Entry under the provisions of subdivision N.W. Quarter Section of Section Number
Ten Acts, for the 16 of the 44 Township in the 5 Range west of the
2nd Meridian

Gerhard Eva

Prince Alb Station.

Northwest Terr. MAR 9 1905

Note. The educational information called for below will be furnished and filed in by the Agent when growing entry

Number in family including entrant.	RACE(Nationality)	WHERE BORN.	PRESENT OCCUPATION.
3	Doukhobor	Russia	Farmer

Form No. 3—1904—500.

40

57

Form E.

AFFIDAVIT by an Agent in support of Claim for Homestead Entry on behalf of a person who has not previously Settled on the Land.

I, [illegible] do solemnly Swear that Semen Postnikoff a Roskian for whom I am acting beside as Agent, is over eighteen years of age that to the best of my knowledge and belief the land in respect of which the application is made is of the class open for homestead entry that there is no person residing upon the said land, nor has there any improvements thereon

and that the application is made for the exclusive use and benefit of the said Semen Postnikoff which the intention of his residing upon and cultivating the said land and not directly or indirectly for the use or benefit of any other person or persons whomsoever, and that he has not heretofore obtained an entry for a homestead on Dominion Lands.

Sworn before me at Yorkton this 20th day of March 1899 before me. Benjamin A. Lyle Clerk Agent

Richard Lee

Sworn Statement of Steven J. Porkunkoff in support of his application for Homestead Entry for the NW¼ of Section 6 Twp. 44 Rge. 6 W of 3rd Meridian.

Steven J. Porkunkoff, 37 years
Residence
Bayfield, Wisconsin

1. That he is a citizen of the United States and was born on the 4th day of April, 1879.

2. That his post office address is Bayfield, Wisconsin.

3. That he has not heretofore made any homestead entry.

4. That he has not any other land in lieu of which he desires to enter under the homestead laws.

5. That neither he nor any person for his benefit has directly or indirectly made any agreement or contract, in any way or manner, with any person whomsoever, by which the title he may acquire from the Government of the United States may inure in whole or in part to the benefit of himself or any other person, or any corporation or syndicate of persons whomsoever.

6. That he will not sell or convey the title acquired to him by the patent issued for the land applied for, or any part thereof, or contract to sell or convey the same, for the benefit of himself or any other person, or any corporation or syndicate of persons whomsoever, within three years from the date of the issuance of patent.

7. That he will cultivate, improve, and reside upon said land for the period required by law.

8. That he is not the owner of 320 acres of land in any State or Territory.

9. That he has not directly or indirectly employed any person to secure this entry for him.

10. That he has personally examined the land described in this application, and that the statements made by him in this affidavit are true to the best of his knowledge and belief.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 5th day of November, 1913.

Witness my hand and official seal.

Notary Public.

My commission expires

Witness:

Witness:

Plat of Section 6 Twp. 44 N. Rge. 6 W. of 3rd P.M.

Timber estimate:

Twp.	44	N
Rge.	6	W
Sec.	6	
Acres	15	
Rate	15	
Value		

Spruce	5	15
Hemlock	50	25
Pine	10	45
Birch	15	6
Oak	15	30
Other		

Approved for entry Nov 26 1913

Register

Receiver

Rostherne

Duplicate

I Herman T. Perlenkeff an actually [illegible] citizen of the United States do solemnly swear that the statements in the foregoing questions are true and correct in every particular. That I claim a Patent for the State Homestead under the provisions of the Northern Pacific Land Act.

That I claimed no entry, and claim a Patent for the same for my own benefit, and not for the benefit of any other person or persons whomsoever.

[illegible]

Subscribed and sworn to before me, this 7th day of Sept 1904 by the said Herman T. Perlenkeff

[illegible]

Agent & Ex Officio Land

I Recommend the foregoing application for Patent, both as to the homestead requirements of the Northern Pacific Land Act, have, in this case been complied with.

Dated at Spokane Aug 31 1904

[illegible]

Land Agent N. P. R. R. Co.

Chicago, SEP 7 1904

Accepted as satisfactory,

[illegible]

Acting Deputy Commissioner.

DATE OF CERTIFICATE OF NATURALIZATION 22-6-04

WHERE NATURALIZED IN HOMESTEAD

DATE OF FILING Sept 12 1904

90

The Society of Friends "Quakers" from London, England sent Michael Shetbutat, a Russian expatriate nobleman, in 1901 to the Prince Albert colony to begin teaching Doukhobor children to read and write in English and do simple arithmetic. Shetbutat went to the Petrovka village where he first taught in the villagers homes, and later in a lean to in a home he built for himself. The classes were small and most of the student children were of Independent Doukhobors. A permanent two-room school for Doukhobor children was built by British Quakers in the Petrovka village in 1906.

One of the students that attended the Petrovka village school was Peter G Makaroff who later graduated from the College of Law. Mr Makaroff was the first Doukhobor to obtain a degree in law.

The government of the North West Territories in 1901 established a ferry at the site of the Petrovka village to facilitate Doukhobor communities access to markets at Rosthern some 30 miles away. It was early known as the Doukhobor Ferry, but later renamed after the former village. The ferry was operated by Mr N Postnikoff under contract with the government.

The settlement of homestead lands from the west bank of the North Saskatchewan River, that were not a part of the Prince Albert Doukhobor Reserve, began in 1900 with entries being made on even-numbered sections by settlers of various origin. The odd-numbered sections were retained by the government for sale or by railways.

On September 28, 1900 Jerry on a homestead was made by Hughes Gillies,

Prince Albert Ferry, N. W. M. P. Steamer "Marquis" with Police on patrol crossing by ferry. Photo Courtesy, Saskatchewan Archives Board. RA 599

Pilgrim Hill — Across the Prairies. From an oil painting by Angelus Shapnikoff

ranged with his family — a wife and ten children, on S.W.¼ — Sec. 10 Twp. 45 Rge. 6 W3rd Mer. In 1901 he built his house thereon. In 1903 it was established as the site of the first post office to serve the area named the Gillies Post Office, operated by Mr. Gillies. Mail was delivered semi-weekly from Duck Lake; the nearest railway and telegraph station some 27 miles away.

On October 16, 1903 came on a homestead was made by Jos. Partiessaux, aged 40, together with his family — a wife and two children on S.E.¼ Sec. 20 – Twp. 45 Rge. 4 W3rd Mer. In August 1903 he built his house thereon. Thus became the site of the second post office (serving the eastern portion of the area), named Chalwood Post Office. Mail was delivered four times a week from Duck Lake; the nearest railway and telegraph station some 18 miles away.

(The Chalwood and Gillies Post Offices were located on homestead lands in Twp 45 this Twp was not a part of the Prince Albert Doukhobor Reserve.)

On the prairie were the few homes where the Doukhobors had hoped to live a lifestyle within their beliefs. However, the Canadian government was in the process of solidification. Untamed prairie wilderness, where every man truly was law with himself, had died with Louis Riel and the fallen Metis in the Rebellion of 1885.

The Doukhobor homestead rights between the government and the Doukhobors began in 1904. The concessions granted to the Doukhobors by Clifford Sifton Minister of the Interior, and Wm. Mc.ntyre, Minister of Immigration, primarily in the Dominion Land Act, were reinterpreted by the newly appointed Minister of the Interior, Frank Oliver, who replaced Sifton. Actions of this interpretation of the law the Community Doukhobors ignored government authority by failing to supply vital statistics, and by failing to conform with the Homestead Act, also refusing to sign the Oath of Allegiance. (The Community Doukhobors refrained from signing the Oath of

Gillies Post Office 1902 Photo courtesy Saskatchewan Archives Board Co-op Photo Album

Allegiance because the administering of an Oath was contrary to their beliefs)

From the
Book of Life of Doukhobors
Translated version, 1978, relevant to Doukhobor beliefs. This "Defence of a Christian" was composed by the Transcaucasian Doukhobors in 1896, when they refused to fulfill military duty and other government requirements

PSALM 374
A Christian's Defence

I am not going to give you my oath, for on it I go not to serve you, because I am a Christian. I do not wish to kill any brethren. I refuse them to commit violence according to the words of our God and Lord Jesus Christ, I regard all people living on earth as children of one Father and therefore my brothers. Our Lord and God Jesus Christ forbids us to take an oath. Read the Gospel of Matthew, chapter twenty-three. You will find there that the Lord forbids us to swear, and swearing in taking an oath. Even the law does not permit me to serve you because as a Christian I should not prepare myself to fight to slay my brothers. Read the Ten Commandments. It is written there "thou shalt not kill or steal, nor commit adultery. Our Lord Jesus Christ also gave us two commandments only. The first commandment says "thou shalt love The Lord God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul and with all thy mind — this is the first and great commandment." The second one says, "thou shalt love thy brother and neighbour as thyself." On these two commandments rests all the law of God.

Resentment and prejudice towards the community lifestyle of the Doukhobors, became evident by individual settlers outside the Doukhobor Reserve boundaries. Their grievance surfaced the attention of the Minister of the Interior. This became one of many factors that influenced the Minister to his reserve recommendations for the government's action towards the Doukhobors at the time.

Olivier appointed a special commission in 1905, headed by Reverend Joy McDougal, Methodist minister to investigate the Doukhobor problem. he was also instructed to enforce the homestead land regulations. Reverend McDougal, upon visiting the village, advised the Community Doukhobors on the basis of his own personal interpretation of the Homestead Act. Thus all entries on homestead land to extend 12-mile radius from the villages must be occupied by those families who made entry on the said land. They must also conform with the Homestead Act, by signing the Oath of Allegiance and failure in so, would result in the dispossession of their lands.

The remaining land within the 8 mile radius of a village would remain for the Community Doukhobors, a reduction of 15 acres per family would be granted. Negotiations between Reverend McDougall and Peter W. Verigin, Spiritual Leader of Doukhobors, resulted in failure, with Doukhobors refusing to accept McDougall's interpretation because of the religious faith as penalties they offered no further resistance. This began the dissolution of the Doukhobor Reserves. All even numbered sections in the survey were not made on by the Doukhobors, were open for entry to settlers of various origin in 1905.

Two provinces were carved out of the North West Territories in 1905 the province of Alberta, with Edmonton as the Provincial Capital and the province of Saskatchewan with Regina as the Provincial Capital — also attaining the title of "Queen City" of the West.

Gerhard Ens formen postmaster of the Rosthern Post Office, and one who was active in the settlement of the Rosthern area, by Mennonites, was elected and served as a sting member of the first legislative assembly formed in the new province of Saskatchewan in 1905

L.M. Prince Albert, 28th August 1907

Memo for Head Office

Lot 4, 44-5-W 3rd Meridian.

Entry of Simon Kochin.

Cancelled on the 23rd Jan. 1907, under instructions received from the Dominion Commissioner.

Land open for entry the 18th June 1907.

Disposed of on the 18th of June to Roderick MacKenzie, he being the first applicant.

No fees paid for improvements.

Reported to be 60 acres of breaking by Homesteaders.

Memo. re Inspection of the land to be sent

Copy for Homestead Inspector Report No 728

Form No. 3A

34333 HOMESTEAD INSPECTOR'S REPORT

No. of Report 5th 577

Name of Homesteader Roderick McLennan

Land in N.D. Range 4 E. Twp. 144 N. Twp. 5 N. 3

Endorsed _____ Application _____

Post Office nearest to land Cavalier

Nearest Post Office address Grand Forks

Is residence or not _____ Yes

Which residence has been performed Patent

Corrected Rec'd 1st

Corrected Rec'd 2nd

Corrected Rec'd 3rd

House Frame Size _____ Value _____

(Specify Material)

Stable Frame Size _____ Value _____

Granary Frame Size _____ Value _____

Fencing Miles _____ Value _____

Well—Value _____ Other Outbuildings _____ Value _____

Stock _____ Value _____

Cultivation—No. of acres broken _____ Value _____

" " cropped _____ Value _____

Kinds of soil _____ Wood _____

Depth to first cultivation _____

Marsh or Lake _____ Value _____

Timber _____ Value _____

Hay land _____

General remarks House is frame Dwelling but it is very difficult to measure it Snow as it is covered with snow

James McDonald
Homestead Inspector

Inspected Feb 26 68

[Reverse Stamping Area]

By the year 1907 all entries made on land by the Community Doukhobors were cancelled by the government, for failure to comply with the homestead regulations. The cultivation and improvements on all cancelled Doukhobor homestead lands in the Prince Albert Reserve were disregarded, and no compensation was awarded to the Doukhobors in the Prince Albert Reserve by the government as a result of the cancellation. On June 1 1907 the community lands were opened for entry at the Prince Albert Lands Branch Office. The rush began for Doukhobor lands, with several hundred applications gathered at the Lands Branch Office two days prior to the opening as they were aware of the fact that much of this land was under cultivation.

In the years 1908 to 1910 one thousand Doukhobors adhered to the independence of individual farming, by making application for homestead land that was a part of the Community prior to the dissolution of the reserve. Conforming with the Dominion Land regulations, they remained on farm as Independent Doukhobors in the Prince Albert District. While adhering to their faith they slowly adjusted to the society around them.

STATEMENT re DOUKHOBOR HOMESTEADS

Ottawa, August 1, 1907

The Doukhobor Commission dealt with a total of 2,737 Doukhobor homesteads in the Yorkton, Prince Albert and Regina agencies.

There were cancelled on the recommendation of the Doukhobor Commissioners Doukhobor entries totalling	2,503
There were standing casual Doukhobor homesteads which had previously been cancelled to the number of	79
There were standing reserved as village sites	30
Doukhobor entries standing, pendent Doukhobors numbering	126
Total	2,737

Land Rush at the Prince Albert Land Agents Office as Doukhobor lands in the Prince Albert Doukhobor Reserve 1907. Photo Courtesy Saskatchewan Archive Board R-A-4

STATEMENT re DISPOSITION OF DOUKHOBOR HOMESTEADS

Ottawa, August 1, 1907

Following is a memorandum showing how the 2,757 Doukhobor homesteads dealt with by the Stockholder Commission have been disposed of:—

Still subject to reserves for Group Settlement	68
Under entry to individuals	584
Thrown open to the general public	1,211
Taken to date	294
Still untaken	
	1,605
	2,757

These Doukhobors who desired to continue a communal way of life, left the province with their Spiritual Leader and moved to the Kootenay Valley in British Columbia, where they acquired land for a new settlement.

In 1909 another ferry was established on the North Saskatchewan River. West of the village of Laird Sec. 31 Twp. 43 Rge 5 W 3rd Mer. an considerable trade was anticipated on this crossing. The ferry was named "Turtlegrund Ferry," and was later named Laird Ferry. Traffic on the ferry in 1910 was 3,000. The ferry was first operated by Simmon Postnikoff under contract with the Department of Public Works. The department paid a ferry man a bonus of ten dollars per month and authorized him to collect in addition a few schedule of tolls for carriage. In 1911 to 1913 traffic on Postnikoff Ferry was 7,689 and on Turtlegrund it was 18,130.

On June 6 1910 a post office named Canterbury was established on N E ¼ Sec. 17 Twp. 44 Rge 5 W 3rd Mer., the former site of Slavanka Doukhobor village. The post office and general store were operated by Mrs. Emily Hill until June 24, 1915 when Miss Maud M. Kackbert took over as postmistress. On May 31, 1916 postal duties were taken over by Asa Knickerocker. In the

Prayer House of the Independent Doukhobors. Located in the Town of Blaine Lake, Saskatchewan. Photo Andrus 1967

year 19 8 the post office was relocated on S.E ¼ Sec. 20 Twp. 44 Rge. 5 – W.3rd Mer on the farm of George S. Karaloff who operated the post office until April 30, 1921 when it was closed permanently.

An era of travel and communication began in the year 1911 with the completion of railway and telegraph line from Prince Albert serving an area from the west bank of the North Saskatchewan River to the agricultural communities of Shellbrook, Parkside, Leask, Marcelin, and Blaine Lake. The railway and telegraph line was later extended to North Battleford, connecting two vital points in the North West.

Petrofka site, formerly known as Petrovka because of its focal point in the history of the province was designated "An Historical Site" on June 14, 1959. A cairn dedicated to the Pioneers of Slavic Origin of Doukhobor Faith was the area of the village was unveiled by the Department of Travel and Information for the Province of Saskatchewan.

The Petrofka Ferry site was selected for the construction of a bridge to span the North Saskatchewan River in 1959 by the Department of Highways and Transportation, due to increased volume of traffic and transportation of commodities. (Two ferries were in operation in the 1950's) Construction of the bridge began in December 1959. The Petrofka Bridge, was officially opened to traffic on September 26, 1962 — ending an era of ferry crossings in the area, with the closing of Carlton, Laird, and Petrofka Ferries.

Tolfang and Ferry Barge. # 2 later renamed Laird. Photo Courtesy Saskatchewan Archives Board, RA 57

AN

HISTORIC SITE

PETROFKA FERRY

Unveiling

SUNDAY JUNE 14, 1959
at 2:30 p.m. M.D.T.

TO COMMEMORATE MARKING THE SITE OF THE DOUKHOBOR FERRY ESTABLISHED IN 1903 AND LATER RENAMED THE PETROFKA FERRY

Brass plaque given by A. Verigin on the site of the first Doukhobor ferry at Petrofka Bridge. The plaque read, "Petrofka Ferry. Petrofka Ferry. Dedicated to the memory of Stolypin. In 1903 Russian [illegible] refugees from Transcanada members of the Doukhobor faith founded two villages in the area near here. For their convenience the Petrofka ferry was established below the point in 1903. It was an important link across the North Saskatchewan River for the traffic and trade of the region. A Saskatchewan Historic Site 1959. Plinth Author [illegible]

PETROPKA FERRY

This ferry was chosen not on the basis of the historical beauty of its location or the well built of Big Mount Establishment river but because this was of the most picturesque in the history of the Province. The site at which the ferry is located is the point where the Big Mount Road meets the Lagarde to Dolores and Independence Road; between Independence the route are required to be applied. Petropka Ferry is the only ferry in the Province of more service the province is the best established ferry it received from England in Three Albert, supported in Petropka Ferry is the only ferry in the Province which has the Number 270, but that of this site.

In 1914 scores of settlers arrived from Russia where most to settle due to the history of the control of Mennonite establishment. These were religious refugees from Russia who were fleeing from persecution. They had sacrificed considerable to leave the home hundred years against the powerful pressures ... some church and an Mennonite Church began. When the pioneers was established in 1914, there at century they were Amished Mennonites, Conservative Mennonites, Old Colony Mennonites, Russian Mennonites, and the Mennonites of the Church Brief in Great Britain and the United States, the Mennonite Brethren in Christ and the Mennonite Brethren, the seventy-six hundred who came to Canada were different backgrounds were brought in the area and needed it Petropka Ferry in the history of the site. This settlement was begun in August, 1914.

The Saskatchewan suffered the hardships and it Hostilities continued in all the disasters. Their rugged businesses were not spared by these disasters, as continuing capacity to the Province. Petropka Ferry was established in 1914 and successful arrangements, and the agricultural in a united Mission, among the canal when the Province proudly interviews. This history built inland town and supported its firm members among which was Petropka Ferry. Petropka Ferry was built by Mr. Peter Hamilton Petropka, and Norman a Ferry. The ferry began Petropka. The remains of the ferry Saskatchewan Petropka Ferry Petropka and built of sand on top of the the west of the era.

In 1914 the government of the North West, Petropka established by a by-election and was successful. Mennonites. It was established of the Saskatchewan Ferry but later Petropka Ferry. Petropka Ferry Petropka Ferry was a summer ferry. The name Petropka Ferry was a common, Russian Germanism in honour of the name.

The Ferry proved a great convenience not only to the Saskatchewan, but also to other in Ferry who began Petropka Ferry. Petropka Ferry was the only ferry in the history in the pioneer Settlement of all the parts of the region the construction of the important ferry crossing. Petropka Ferry was the first one of the ferries to provide transportation and Petropka Ferry in of the Mennonite Province and Agriculture.

By G. W. Petropka.

PROGRAMME

...mas T. L. M a Deputy Minister
Dept. Transit and Information.

Mr. the Hon. (Dr. Tobe ...)

...PONTVIEUX

Dr. ...

Address by Hon. H. A. Hamlin, Q.C
Attorney General

Dominion Children's Choir

Address by Dr. Duncan M. P. C. Mackay Q.C.

Acceptance of the ... Jolly Assessment President, Rotary Lake Fundraiser Society

Dominion Students' Choir

Greetings from C. Hamlin Association of ... Mrs. J. R. Roberts *President*

Theatrical Chemistry Song
("We have established our Meeting"

The Wingard Ferry established on the North Saskatchewan River in 1898 several miles downstream from the Fort Carlton Site is still maintained and operated as a river crossing in the 1980's, to support the agricultural communities, and facilitate tourism to the historical sites of Fort Carlton Batoche and Duck Lake museum.

The era of the courageous early settlers, on the untamed Western Frontier of the region has faded with the years, but the evidence of their presence reflects on the landscape of modern time.

The stately maple grove that sheltered the first trading post (Fort La Montée) in the region still stands its branches reaching toward the sky with a whisper like wave of the past.

The sun rises and sets on the same plains and on the flowing river where once the three groups the Metis, the Mennonites, and the Doukhobors had hopes and dreams to build a way of life, each within their respective beliefs.

Those God fearing people who came to the prairies to build a small Utopia have all gone but their succeeding generations remain, with the legacy of their history marked only by local points in the Carlton Region

Geory[illegible] A[illegible]o[illegible]ath, at the age of 90, standing beside the Cairn at the official unveiling ceremonies on June 18, 1939. He was the last survivor of many [illegible] who had suffered imprisonment, torture and severe physical persecution by the Russian state-controlled Church and the Czarist Regime for his religious beliefs. In the book "The Commandments Were Made Red Hot," deeply embedded lash scars along his back, were evidence of the severe persecutions from which many had perished and those who survived received the guilt which guided them from tyranny to freedom in their exodus to the Canadian Prairie regions. He passed away in the age of 92 years.

Standing on the left by the Cairn is Semyon Zhilinoff, on the right is Jack Pawhaloff, pioneers of the immigration era. Jack Pawhaloff homesteaded River Lot 1 Twp. 45, Rge. 3 — 'Wood Mtn' which was one of the French for trading post, Fort La Montée. Photo Courtesy, Saskatchewan Archives Board, Saskatoon Star Phoenix Collection. S SP-B 3101 15

Peterpike Bridge, open to traffic September 26, 1962. Photo Author

Cairn at the valley the North Saskatchewan River. At the bank near the site of the first Denkhobar village and the Petrykiw Ferry. Cairn dedicated by the Province of Saskatchewan. Photo Author

Wizard Island in the Crater Lake National Park, Oregon, 1932. From an oil painting by Agatha Stepanoff Ford

Prairie Trees—A Carbon region. From [illegible] Aquila Skyhook

Conclusion

In conclusion, as we reflect on our heritage and history may we pause for a brief moment to give tribute to the courage and endurance of those who made this history unfold. The Carlton Region with prime agricultural land, and diversified farming, is within the boundaries of the Province of Saskatchewan.

Saskatchewan in the beginning was often referred to as a poor "Cousin Country" among its neighboring provinces. With agriculture, an abundance of natural resources and its people, Saskatchewan is now in the forefront. The province could well boast of the sons and daughters who stemmed from those pioneers.

The efforts, the daily privations, the trials and the triumphs of the early settlers, who paved the way for others were not in vain.

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Building
Our Future

HISTORICAL SAGA OF THE CARLTON REGION, 1797 - 1920

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by

George
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Commemorating Saskatchewan's Heritage
1905-1985

I dedicate this book to my children Kenneth Marlene and Robert and their families and to all generations who stemmed from courageous settlers of the Western Frontier

Cover Design by
Agatha Stupnikoff
Titled
"SALUTE TO THE NEW HORIZONS"

Courageous settlers proceeding westward to a land where they had hopes and dreams of living a life-style within their beliefs.

HISTORICAL SAGA OF THE CARLTON REGION 1797 - 1920

Researched Compiled and Published
by Sam George Stupnikoff

Commemorating Saskatchewan's Heritage
1905 1985

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HISTORICAL SAGA OF THE CARLTON REGION
1797 – 1920
By Sam G. Stupnikoff Blaine Lake Saskatchewan

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Foreword and Acknowledgements

The historical saga of the Carlton Region is based on events and the story of Canadian ethnic minorities, the Metis the Mennonites, and the Doukhobors The perseverance of each individual group and the hardships encountered in their efforts to attain a lifestyle and maintain their culture and communities on the untamed Western Frontier is gradually becoming a legend The story of the region's past may read like a novel but the highlights of its history must be recorded and maintained for succeeding generations

Being of a background of Doukhobor Faith, my wife and I are direct descendents of grandparents and parents who migrated to Canada with the Doukhobor contingent and settled in the Prince Albert Doukhobor Reserve in 1899 With the dissolution of the Prince Albert Doukhobor Reserve in 1907 the Stupnikoff and Postnikoff families adhered to the independence of individual farming. While maintaining the family farm and also farming River Lots 4 and 6 as of the 1870 surveys in Township (Twp.) 44 Range (Rge.) 5 West (W) of 3rd Meridian (Mer.) it has been my lifelong aspiration to record the region's history as it unfolded. The information is based on the reminiscence of our predecessors and on the availability of material relevant to an area of the province that is steeped in history and a part of the Great North West

The most contentious area to a researcher is the accessibility of material The sources of material do not necessarily await the researcher at archives libraries nor will field work and personal interviews bring all the desired information with ease. The response and co-operation of archival personnel for records that provided invaluable information, librarians for acquiring various publications and individuals for personal interviews are acknowledged and greatly appreciated

I would like to express thanks to the typist for doing the enormous amount of work involved in the typing of my manuscript

Sincere appreciation is acknowledged to individuals who reviewed the manuscript and offered advice on inconsistencies in various areas of the draft, and to the Saskatchewan Government Department of Culture and Recreation for financial assistance towards research and manuscript preparation

To my family I am grateful for the support and encouragement offered to me in the preparation of this project. To my wife Agatha who spent endless hours in the art work recreating scenes of the past to be used in support of this history I would like to say "thank you."

The topics and the highlights of this unfolding history of the Carlton Region are entirely my own selections The information is factual to the best of my knowledge and to the accuracy of the sources identified herein

Preface

In the excited rush and confusion of our everyday lives we have little or no time to reflect on our natural heritage and history of the early settlers. The era of the pioneers is a memorable one. Many came penniless with hope aspiration and determination. They came into the untamed wilderness by the will of their Creator to carve a lifestyle and change natural landscapes into distinctive cultural landscapes in the settlement of the Canadian West.

The Carlton Region has characteristics of historical significance, as did many areas of the Western Plains a hinterland of the past a geographical area located West of the Third Principal Meridian primarily of Twps 41 48 Rgs 1 7 W3rd Mer with the North Saskatchewan River flowing through from the south west portion of the region Twp 44 Rge 7 W 3rd Mer to the north east of the region of Twp 48 Rge 1 W 3rd Mer.

The inhabitants of the Western Frontier were Indians of the Plains, who identified themselves by tribal names Cree, Blackfoot Gros Ventres, Chippewa Sioux etc. They were non agricultural people, who hunted and fished for the necessities of their livelihood, food clothing, and habitat. They hunted with stone tipped weapons and butchered with stone and bone tools. The weaponry and tools were a product of their own skillfulness. Many artifacts of their weapons and tools have been found in the region primarily in the area surrounding Fort La Montee that was situated on the west bank of the North Saskatchewan River at the base of River Lot 1 – Twp 45 Rge 5 W 3rd Mer., which is now within the boundaries of the Rural Municipality of Blaine Lake 434.

The Western Plains were rich with fur bearing animals and fowl of different species. Generations of Indian tribes that lived in areas slowly developed, over the years, a kind of a road system of foot worn paths that followed streams and animal migratory routes. Some of these foot trodden paths became the first over land routes of the white man. The Cree Indians were predominantly the inhabitants of the Carlton Region prior to the presence of the fur traders, explorers, missionaries surveyors and early settlers. The white man's presence drastically changed the Indian's way of life.

The appearance of the fur traders on the Saskatchewan River system was by the North West Fur Trading Company a Company that monopolized the fur trade from 1768 to 1770.

The Hudson's Bay Company built its first inland post on the North Saskatchewan River at Cumberland House in 1774.

As the fur trade moved West up the river the Carlton Region became an area of focal activity with the construction of Fort La Montee in 1797 by the North West Trading Company on the west bank of the river. The Hudson's Bay Company also came further west and built a fort on the opposite side of the river some 3 miles downstream which was known as Carlton House in 1810.

Fort La Montee was constructed by the

French fur traders while Carlton House was constructed by the British fur traders The forts were in constant rivalry with each other, and at times there was confrontation between the two forts The personnel of each fort had to contend with constant harassment by Indian tribes.

Realizing that the personnel of the two forts was not large enough to maintain constant vigil of prevailing conditions the two forts amalgamated in 1829

The first overland route was established in 1840 known as the Carlton Trail followed by the appearance of steam navigation on the river system in 1870

The Prince Albert Settlement was founded by Reverend James Nisbet a Presbyterian Minister in 1866. The settlement was situated on the south bank of the North Saskatchewan River beginning east of the Third Principal Meridian in Twp 48 – Rge 28 The Prince Albert Settlement was a vital point in the settlement of the Carlton region from 1870 to 1900

The area known as Rupert's Land west of the Manitoba border was sold to the Canadian Government in 1870 by the Hudson's Bay Company This area then became a part of the Territories

The 1870s saw the influx of group settlements into the Carlton Region The first settlements were by displaced Metis from the Winnipeg area who settled on agricultural land along the river system The Metis were granted a unique subdivision of land known as River Lots The River Lots were a blee of land equally divided into parcels each parcel measuring 1/8 of a mile in width and 2 miles in length thereabout, bordered by the river as a waterfront. Each Lot contained 160 acres more or less, and each Lot was numerically identified in each respective Township and Range

This provided the Metis Settlements access to the river as a source of water supply and a travel route, and created a community of being close to them neighbors. The Metis farmers grew corn and root vegetables potatoes, turnips, and carrots, and also hunted and fished for their livelihood

The Carlton Settlement along the east and west banks of the North Saskatchewan River consisted of some 28 River Lots. Sixteen of these Lots were along the west bank of the river in Twps 44–45 Rge 5 W 3rd Mer. now in the Rural Municipality of Blaine Lake 434 They are still maintained as of the survey of 1870, and are farmed in the 1980s in that same manner

The St Laurent Settlement was of a much larger concentration along the east and west banks of the south branch of the Saskatchewan River in Twps 41–45 – Rge 48 W 3rd Mer of some 208 Lots in the Rural Municipalities of Duck Lake 463 Rosthern 403 St Louis 431 and Wakaw 402

In 1895 the Metis Settlements were dispersed by political entity with the North West Rebellion as this special survey of land did not conform with the official land surveys of the Canadian Government

The completion of a railway line in 1890 by the Qu'Appelle, Long Lake, Saskatchewan Railway & Company from Regina extended north to Saskatoon and on to Prince Albert, servicing the areas of Duck Lake and Rosthern.

The 1890 era brought two groups of settlers into the Carlton Region, they were the Old Colony Mennonites and people of Doukhobor Faith The Canadian Government at the time was seeking immigrants to settle the Western Prairies These two groups of people lived adjacently to Czarist Russia Their religious Faith as conscientious objectors as well as their lifestyle had a broad similarity

These two groups were under oppression and severe persecution by the Czarist Regime for refusing to serve in the militia They were willing to migrate to a land free of oppression where there would be no government interference in their religious and co-operative way of life. They were people of the soil willing to endure the hardships of the open prairie. Other

settlers chose to settle in woodlands and fertile river bottoms and shunned open prairies.

The two groups were large enough in number to be recognized by the Canadian government. The government made available large tracts of land for settlement in the Prairie Region, similar to the terrain these people had occupied in Russia, and where each group in its own respective way could adapt a community lifestyle.

They were granted special concessions which were enacted by Order in Council in 1874, prior to their migration. The "Militia Act" provided unconditional exemption from the militia. The "Hamlet Act," allowed the building of villages to maintain their communities in a lifestyle to which they were adapted to.

The Mennonites preceded the Doukhobors into the Carlton Region in 1895. They settled en bloc on land on the Northern Mennonite Reserve, bordered by the east bank of the North Saskatchewan River which is now a part of the Rural Municipality of Rosthern 403. The Doukhobors settled in the Carlton Region in 1899 on the Prince Albert Doukhobor Reserve bordered by the west bank of the North Saskatchewan River which is now a part of the Rural Municipality of Blaine Lake 434.

Strangely enough the two groups with a relationship of beliefs, lifestyle migration pattern and concessions granted lived independently of each other, and maintained no association.

Ferries were established along the river in the region to facilitate the settlers of the area. Carlton, Petrofka, and Teifungrund which was later known as "Laird Ferry."

The region was also being occupied by general settlement, surrounding the reserved land, with the arrival of settlers of various origins: British, French, Ukrainian, Scandinavian, etc.

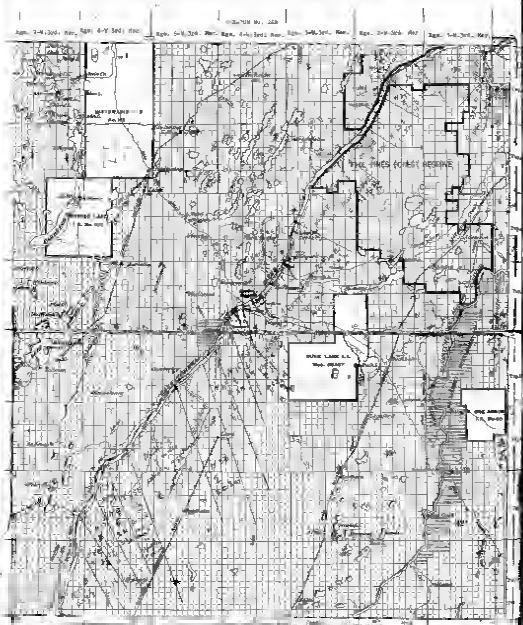
With the occupation of homestead land by white settlers, the Indians slowly withdrew to their designated reserves, the "One Arrow" Indian Reserve No. 95, "Okemasis and Beardy" Indian Reserves Nos. 96 and 97, "Muskeg Lake" Indian Reserve No. 102, "Mistawasis" Indian Reserve No. 103, and "Young Chippewayan" Reserve No. 107.

Honoring Treaty No. 6 the Commissioners of the Crown, in September 1876 in the Carlton Region and at Fort Pitt, negotiated Treaty No. 6 with the Cree, who thereby surrendered their rights to 120,000 square miles.

The Treaty allayed unrest amongst the Indians and assisted the peaceful settlement of this Region.

The dissolution of the Mennonite and Doukhobor Reserves in the Carlton Region, the removal of ferries (Carlton, Petrofka and Laird), have all become a part of Saskatchewan's early history. Several cairns dotting landscapes at focal points, and a small historical museum near the Rectory at Batoche, also the reconstruction of Fort Carlton as a historical park are the only remaining evidence of the past.

There is an old Indian saying: "One day the Buffalo will return and again roam the Western Plains."



Carlton Region, map showing Carlton River Lots, St. Laurent & Fur Lots Indian Reserves Courtesy Saskatchewan Archives Board.

Region's First Inhabitants

The first inhabitants of the Western Frontier lived in harmony with nature. Through time these people became known as Indians. Although various people inhabitated the Western Frontier, the fertile plains of Central Saskatchewan and Alberta were inhabited by Plains, Wood Swampy and Willow Cree peoples. Their unique way of life was enriched by their skills of hunting and fishing, for sustenance of their livelihood. Their hunting largely depended on the vast buffalo herds along with deer, moose, fowl, and fur bearing animals, for food, clothing, shelter, tools and weapons.

As the white settlers continued to fill the western plains the Indians came to realize their way of life, their freedom and their survival was being challenged

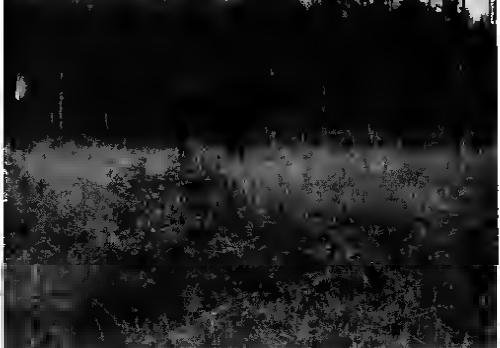
Cree Indian. (Carlton Region) Photo Courtesy Saskatchewan Archives Board, S B 6797

The Indian peoples found it difficult to provide for their families, with the disappearance of the buffalo herds. The wholesale slaughter of the buffalo by the white man resulted in the near extinction of the herds that roamed the plains.

Sickness had brought hardships to the Indian people. Small pox, red measles, scarlet fever, typhoid influenza and venereal disease ravaged entire nations. This antecedent was not present among Indian people before the arrival of the white man.

The Government of Canada had acquired control of the North West Territories from the Hudson's Bay Company in 1869.

Cree Chiefs representing the district between Fort Carlton and Fort Edmonton, met with Mr. W. J. Christie in April 1871. Christie, a representative of the Hudson's Bay Company was in charge of a rapidly increasing settlement in the Saskatchewan district. The land question with the new government was not yet clarified, and as a result the Indians opposed the running of speaking wires "telegraph lines" the making of roads and the establishment of white settlements in their country. They asked that both the bringing of spirits into the country and the use of poison in the destruction of animal life be prohibited. They were concerned for what the coming



Buffalo of the West n Plains photographed at Elk Island Park along Yellowhead Highway No. 16 West. Province of Alberta. Photo Author 1965.

years would bring to their children, and to the future generations of Indians for a new life was dawning upon them

Mr Christie assured the Chiefs that he would forward the message of the Crees to His Excellency Lieutenant Governor Archibald Her Majesty s representative at Fort Garry Red River Settlement, of their concerns

In response to the message of the Chiefs of the Cree nations Her Majesty the Queen, the Great White Mother Queen of Great Britain and Ireland notified and informed the said Indians, that it was Her desire to open that tract of country for settlement or for any other such purpose to meet the needs of Her Majesty and the Government of Canada

Dealing with such situations, the Government of Canada, in the name of the Queen made treaties with the Indian people By 1875 Treaties 1, 2, 3 4 and 5 were concluded The Government of Canada had acquired title to much of the land part of Ontario Manitoba and southern Saskatchewan The remaining area included the traditional lands of the plains tribes, through Central Saskatchewan and Alberta

In the treaties the government set aside reserves of land for Indians to live on The government promised and agreed to provide the Indians with certain rights and goods, for a self supporting community

In the alliance the Indian nations were required to freely and voluntarily relinquish their natural title privileges, and rights in the specified territory to the Government of the Dominion of Canada, the Queen and her successors forever and

Indian Brave. Photo Courtesy Public Archives Canada. C33471

to pledge allegiance to the Crown and forever keep the peace

Eleven distinct treaties were concluded by the government with the Indian nations, between 1871 and 1923 encompassing a geographic area of northern Ontario, Manitoba Saskatchewan Alberta, and parts of British Columbia Although the terms and conditions of the treaties that were agreed to were not of uniform nature Treaties 1 2, 3 4, and 5 were forerunners to Treaty No 6

In the spring of 1876, plans for Treaty Six were finalized Treaty negotiations were to take place at Fort Carlton and Fort Pitt.

The appointed Commissioners were Honourable Alexander Morris, Lieutenant Governor of the province of Manitoba Honourable W J Christie, and the Honourable James McKay a member of the North West Council It was felt McKay being a Metis could have some influence on the Indians Morris was previously involved in negotiations of Treaties 3 4 and 5

Lieutenant Governor Morris accompanied by his commissioners and escorted by the North West Mounted Police on August 18 1876 proceeded to the site chosen for treaty negotiations. The site was some 1½ miles east of Carlton House, a Hudson's Bay fort situated on the east bank of the North Saskatchewan River

The Governor's tent was pitched on a piece of rising ground some 400 yards from the Indian camp containing about 2,000 Indians

Throughout the negotiations the Indians were addressed as "the Red Children

Indian Encampment Treaty Day File Hills 1926 Photo Courtesy Saskatchewan Archives Board R-A 14853

Indian Encampment near a Treaty Site Photo Courtesy Saskatchewan Archives Board S.B. 4693.

of the Great White Mother the Queen. They were given the opportunity to express their concerns and put forth their requests and were told of what the government was prepared to promise them. The Indians had little choice but to accept the terms offered. They knew that the land inevitably would be taken from them if they refused.

The Indians were to honour Treaty Six by surrendering their rights to 120 000 square miles of traditional Indian lands now occupied by Crees and other Indian people. In return Her Majesty agreed to lay aside reserves of land for each band of Indians on the basis of 1 square mile per family of five. The reserves were to be surveyed by the government for the benefit of the said Indians, and were to be administered by Her Majesty's Government of the Dominion of Canada. In some cases the location of the reserves would be chosen by band leaders.

Indians who would commence cultivating the soil would be provided the necessary hand tools for cultivating and reaping one plough and two harrows for every three families four oxen one bull six cows one boar and two sows for each band. Each Chief was given a set of carpenter's tools. Those bands that were planning to cultivate their land would be given enough wheat barley oats and potatoes for planting, and one hand mill if there was sufficient grain to warrant the machine. This was to be given once only to encourage the practice of agriculture.

Each recognized Chief of an Indian band would receive an annual salary of twenty-five dollars per annum and each subordinate officer not exceeding one in each band would receive fifteen dollars

per annum, each Chief would receive, once every three years a suitable suit of clothing, a suitable flag and medal. Also one horse, harness and wagon would be provided for each band Chief.

An annual payment of five dollars would be made to every man, woman and child inhabiting the reserves. Fifteen hundred dollars would be granted annually and divided in the treaty area for the purchase of ammunition and fishing nets.

The Indians would have the rights to pursue their avocation of hunting and fishing throughout the surrendered territory and would be exempt from regulations enforced by the Government of Canada from time to time.

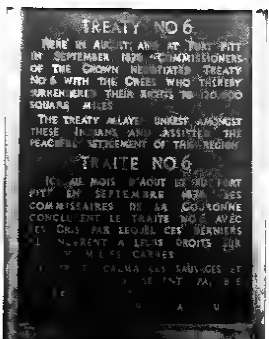
When the Indians settled on a reserve and had children to be taught the Queen would provide and maintain a school if it was desired. A medicine chest would be kept at the residence of each Indian Agent on a reserve, for the use and benefit of the Indians at the discretion of the agent.

No spirituous liquors would be allowed on the reserves or to other Indians in the North West Territories. Laws would be enforced to prevent the influence of intoxicating liquors.

The Indians would be exempt from military service. Any Indians that would serve in the military on behalf of Canada, would do so at their own choice.

The Indians were to promise to abide by the laws in all respect, and to maintain peace between themselves and others of Her Majesty's subjects. They would assist Her Majesty's Officers in bringing to justice any Indian offending the stipulations of the treaty or violating the laws enforced by the country.

Cairn marks the location of the signing of Treaty No. 6 with the Cree Indians


TREATY NO 6
MADE IN AUGUST AND AT FORT PITT
IN SEPTEMBER 1876 BY THE COMMISSIONERS
OF THE CROWN NEGOTIATED TREATY
NO 6 WITH THE CREES WHO THEREBY
SURRENDERED THEIR RIGHTS TO 120 000
SQUARE MILES
THE TREATY MEANT UNREST AMONGST
THESE INDIANS AND ASSISTED THE
PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT OF THIS REGION
TRAITE NO 6
LE 28E JOUR D'AOUT 1876 ET FORT
PITT EN SEPTEMBRE 1876 LES
COMMISSAIRES DE LA COURONNE
CONCLUENT LE TRAITE NO 6 AVEC
LES CRIS PAR LEQUEL CES DERNIERS
CEDERENT A LEURS DROITS SUR
120 000 MILLES CARRES

Cairn location is an N.E. ¼, Sec. 11 — Twp. 44 — Reg. 4 — W3rd Mer. N.M. @ Duck Lake 463 along Highway 212 to Fort Carlton Historic Park. Photo Author

On the fourth day of Treaty Six negotiations the Governor addressed the Chiefs and expressed the urgency of acceptance of the terms of the treaty. The treaty would ensure the preservation of the Indian nationhood.

Following his address the principal Chiefs rose and said they would accept the terms of the treaty.

The negotiations at Carlton were concluded with the signing of Treaty Six on August 23 1876 by the Head Chiefs of the Plains and Wood Crees Mistowasis, and Ahtuckakoop and the remainder of the Chiefs and Councillors. It was also signed by Lieutenant Governor Archibald, and his Commissioners Christie and McKay. The treaty was then witnessed by all other Metis and Whites present at the negotiations.

The Willow Crees and Chief Beardy agreed to the terms of the treaty on August 28th. These people had earlier objected to the spirit of the treaty by opposing the surrender of the natural title to their traditional tribal lands. They were of the opinion that a lend or lease agreement of their lands, would be of greater benefit for all Indian nations. The number of these Indians was relatively small and were not in a position to offer much resistance. Reluctantly they signed the treaty.

The Governor and the Commissioners then proceeded to Fort Pitt where treaty negotiations were concluded, with the signing of Treaty Six, by the Head Chief of the Crees, Chief Sweet Grass and the remainder of the Chiefs and Counsellors on September 9, 1876.

The duration of Treaty Six is "For as long as the sun shines the grass grows and the river flows."

MAP (Treaty Terr[illegible])

Fort La Montee 1797–1820; Carlton House 1810–1856; Fort Carlton 1856–1885

When one stands on the second rise of the River Lot hills in Twp 44 Rge 5 W 3rd Mer overlooking nature s creation of the North Saskatchewan R ver flowing in a northeasterly direction, there comes into view a tall maple grove dividing River Lot 8 in Twp 44 and River Lot 1 in Twp 45 Many have questioned the grove s unique location beginning from the edge of the rise of willow and cran berry flats, stretching westward for sever al hundred yards That is all that remains of a grove that once sheltered the first settlement of the white man called Fort La Montee

The French fur traders pushed west ward by canoe up the North Saskat chewan River into the rich fur bearing

Maple Grove that once sheltered Fort La Montee Dividing River Lot 8 Twp 44 Rge 5 — W3rd Mer and Rive Lot 1 Twp 45, Rge 5 — W3rd Mer Photo Author

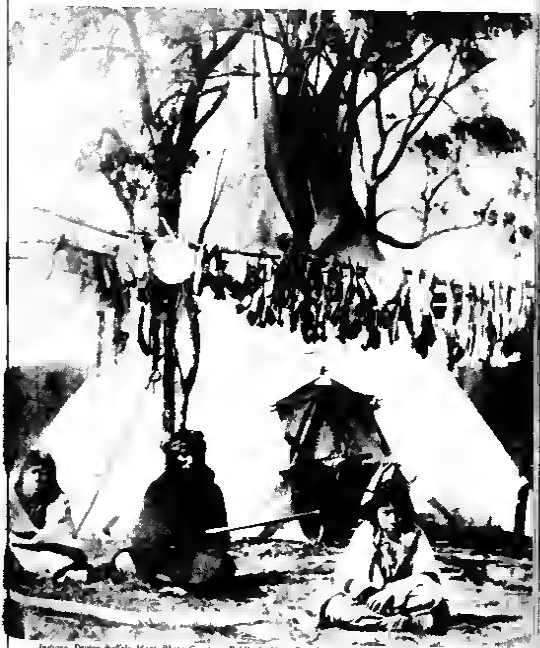
areas to trade with the Indians Fort La Montee meaning stopping place was constructed by the North West Trading Company in 1797 (The location of the fort site was River Lot 1 Twp. 45 - Rge. 5 W 3rd Mer.) The population of the fort numbered one hundred and thirty of which sixty were women and children. The fort was a stopping place for the fur traders who came by canoe they rented horses at the fort, and proceeded further inland to trade with the Indians This was also the first sign of agricultural appearance corn was grown on the rich soil around the fort. The population of the fort largely depended on pemmican for sustenance of their livelihood supplied by the Indians

In 1810 the Hudson's Bay Trading Company came westward and built a fort on the opposite side of the river some 3 miles downstream which was known as Carlton House In 1856 Carlton House was renamed Fort Carlton a Cree name (PA HON AN IK) meaning watching place Some three hundred Indians and whites were attached to these forts supplying deer meat, buffalo meat and hide for pemmican and furs for the traders

> Pemmican was made by cutting buffalo meat into long thin strips, then hung on scaffolds made of poles from poplar trees The meat hung in the sun until dry rolled into a bundle, and tied with tendon It was placed into a large wooden bowl and pounded into powder Berries were added to the powder and mixed with hot animal fat, then packed into sacks made from buffalo hide This was pemmican miraculous food of the prairie wilderness

The forts were under constant danger of attack by the Indians In 1820 the two forts amalgamated in a common cause against the Indians Fort La Montee was dismantled and the materials were rafted down the river to Carlton House where more buildings were constructed

Fort Carlton and the Carlton Trail leading to the Fort 1883 Photo Courtesy Saskatchewan Archives Board. S B 135



Indians Drying Buffalo Meat Photo Courtesy Public Archives Canada C17403

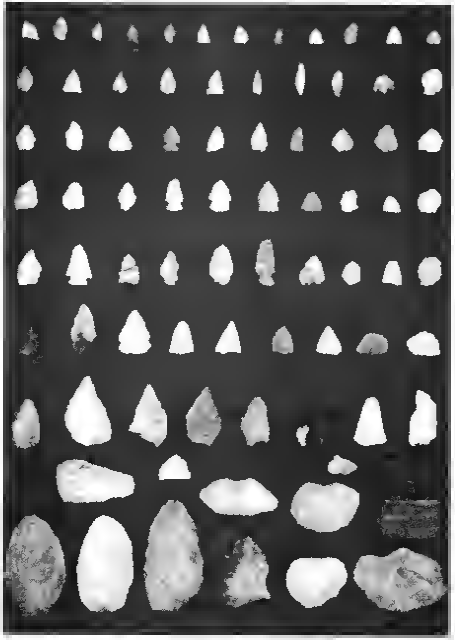
Pemmican bowl and pounder at the Historic Park of Fort Edmonton Alberta. Photo Author

From the
Diary of Angus MacKay
Fort La Montee October 12, 1929

Angus Mackay President of the Historical Association of Prince Albert was accompanied by his brother Mr George Mackay of Wingard who knew the spot

We found that one Jack Perehodoff owned the land thereabouts with his permission drove through his fields to the outer lip of the river valley We noticed higher ground not brought under the plow we crossed to it and soon found out it was the site of the fort we had clear indications of the palisades in different places there were at least ten cellars and many chimneys. the measurement of the fort was about one hundred and fifty feet by one hundred and fifty feet it stood about two hundred feet from the mud flats of the river where the river used to flow now overgrown with willow and cranberry bush the river now flows a considerable distance away

By the mid nineteenth century Carlton House was named Fort Carlton Fort Carlton had become a favorite stopping



A collection of flint artifacts by Agatha Steptoe found in the area of Fort Le Mars

A collection of Indian Artifacts by Agatha Sugnikoff found in the area of Fort La Monnee

View of the Ke tion R ve Lot s, circa 1870, arrow along he We t Bank of he North Saskatchewan River, grain elevators in he background are located in the Village of Carl on, from an oil paint ng by Agatha Stupnikoff

place for many famous travellers, explorers and missionaries who proceeded westward into the unknown terrain. Pemmican was produced at the Fort then shipped overland via the Green lake Trail to Ile-a La Crosse and other outlying posts.

In the 1870s many Metis families who were displaced in the Winnipeg area moved to the Fort Carlton area and settled on land that was subdivided into River Lots on either side of the river. This land division had a narrow river frontage which gave the tenant access to use of the river as a source of water supply and also as a route of travel. The Metis families began cultivation of the soil and lived peacefully for several years. When the Hudson's Bay Company sold the West to the Canadian Government uneasiness was created among the Metis families. Signs of unrest became evident under the leadership of Gabriel Dumont.

The first force of Royal North West

Mounted Police was stationed at Fort Carlton in 1884 twenty months accompanied by their Commander Superintendent L. F. N. Crozier arrived with their wives and children at Fort Carlton December 27, 1884 from Regina which they left December 13 1884. Fort Carlton was mysteriously burnt to the ground on the night of March 27-28, 1885 and was not rebuilt. Its personnel was moved to Prince Albert.

Prince Albert Settlement 1862-1890

The area where the city of Prince Albert now stands was nothing more than one of many Indian campgrounds along the North Saskatchewan River. It was in June 1862, James Isbister a trapper and interpreter for the Hudson's Bay Company and his Indian wife settled on the south bank of the river which later became the Prince Albert Settlement.

The founder of the Prince Albert Settlement was Reverend James Nisbet, Presbyterian Minister from Ontario. He made his expedition into the wilderness of Rupert's Land for mission work amongst the Cree Indians. Reverend Nisbet and his party made their journey to Fort Carlton by Red River Cart from Kildonan Manitoba arriving at Fort Carlton on July 17 1866. The Nisbet party left Fort Carlton July 25 by boat down the North Saskatchewan River. They landed on the south bank of the river on July 26 at a point which is now Central Avenue.

With the rich fertile soil lush hay stands and an abundance of heavy timber stands Nisbet was much impressed by the area. His decision was to establish a mission farm and settlement. By late fall of 1866 The Nisbet party built two houses.

Nisbet named his new settlement Prince Albert in honor of the late Consort of Queen Victoria. He also attempted to encourage the Cree Indians to settle around the mission farm.

In 1872 a church was built in the settlement seating one hundred and twenty people.

The Canadian Pacific Railway surveyors came down the North Saskatchewan to chart the river in 1872 for the purpose of steam navigation. The first steam boat arrived at Fort Carlton in 1874.

Nisbet and his wife left the Prince Albert Settlement in 1874 and returned to Ontario.

In 1878 the Prince Albert Settlement was surveyed from the third principal meridian in an easterly direction along the south bank of the river a total of 82 River Lots.

The era of the early settlement was to diminish and a frontier town was at its beginning. The population of the Prince Albert settlement in 1878 was approximately eight hundred and thirty one people.

By 1880 Prince Albert prospered with various businesses including a brick plant, flour mill, and a saw mill. Village buildings stretched for a considerable distance along the south bank of the river front.

Emmanuel College opened in 1880 with classrooms, a library and a Warden's residence. This was the pride of Prince Albert's population who believed this was to be the Queen City of the West. The College was the first to offer high school work with the curriculum of mathematics, classical languages and English. It was attended by boys of various denominations and faiths. College tuition fees were ten dollars per year boarding facilities were also provided for the students.

The agricultural community surrounding the Prince Albert settlement produced

Nisbet Church built by Reverend James Nisbet in the Prince Albert Settlement 1872 from an oil painting by Agatha Stupnikoff 1983

some 62 000 bushels of wheat in the fall of 1881 half of the total amount grown in the Territories.

In 1882 the Canadian government opened a branch Land Office to serve the region thus replacing Fort Carlton as headquarters for the Lower Saskatchewan District

The Wood Mountain and Qu Appelle Railway Company was authorized to build a railroad from the United States border to Prince Albert in 1883 The construction of the railroad never came to reality

Excessive rains and a heavy frost in 1884 caused a total crop failure. These two factors put the district in a more desperate situation than any other part of the Territories and caused the downfall of Prince Albert and its future growth

Survey of the area west of the third principal meridian continued in 1883 with parties of surveyors dividing and subdividing the untamed prairie into equal parcels of land Thus identified each section and quarter section township and range numerically in preparation for settlement of agricultural land

Prince Albert Pioneer Town. Photo Courtesy Saskatchewan Archives Board. No. S.B.6751

Emmanuel College first Academy Institution in the Territories. It was located in the Prince Albert Settlement 1860. from an oil painting by Agatha Stupnikoff 1963

N W M P Detachment at Fort Carlton, 1884 1885 Standing — S.M. Dann, Constables Roberts, Oliver Littlefield Doyle Corps De ba es, Pringle Second Row — Constables Wolfe, Manners, Smith Doe Miller Supt Gagnon Constable Macpherson Third Row — Constables Flamming Pook Dog Wilmot, Carter Photo Courtesy Saskatchewan Archives Board, R A 8121

Prince Albert [illegible] Photo Courtesy Provincial Archives of Alberta, B2362

Through the winter of 1884–1885 the land issue in the Batoche and Fort Carlton region remained unresolved. The Metis together with Louis Riel failed to obtain sympathy from the Canadian government concerning the Metis land claims. The government survey did not conform with the special survey of land known as the River Lots.

A Cree Indian band and a band of Sioux had declared themselves on the Metis side.

The Prince Albert settlement of about one thousand people with its stores and warehouses was vulnerable to attack by the Metis for much needed supplies. A column of North West Mounted Police was dispatched from Regina on March 18 arriving at the Prince Albert settlement on March 24 deterring a possible attack by a Sioux Indian Band.

During the Metis unrest at Batoche Fort Carlton always susceptible to attack was mysteriously burnt to the ground on the night of March 27 28. This forced Commissioner A. G. Irvine, Superintendent Crozier, and his force of Royal North West Mounted Police to retreat to Prince Albert where they awaited military reinforcements, to suppress the Metis uprising.

The victory at Batoche by the Canadian Militia in May 1885 suppressed the Metis and the Prince Albert settlement gradually returned to normal activity.

A railroad was being built from Regina through Saskatoon to Prince Albert. The first train arrived in Prince Albert on September 4 1890. From this time river transportation slowly diminished. The beginning of a new era became evident with the influx of settlers into the untamed agricultural region.

Today the city of Prince Albert, located in the heart of the Nisbet Provincial Forest along the North Saskatchewan River, has a population of about thirty-four thousand in the mid 1980s and may be identified as the gateway to the North.

The City's unique location attracts tourists to the northern resort areas while the fresh water lakes create a fisherman's paradise.

The residents of Prince Albert host an annual event for several days each February known as "The Prince Albert Winter Festival" commemorating the era of the fur traders and the pioneers.

Carlton Trail 1840–1880

The white man's first route of intrusion into the Western Plains was made by canoe up the rivers which flowed in an easterly direction. Present day travel on the modern highways of our province and our nation is in great contrast to transportation by canoe on the river or by the Red River Cart along the Carlton Trail. As we motor into our neighboring province of Alberta via Trans-Canada to the Banff highway and approach the Eisenhower junction we swing in a south and west direction on Highway 93. Driving this route we approach an area that is a mystery of geographical creation. An information board with a legend. The

Continental Divide. Photo Author

Duck Lake Regional Historical Museum in the Town of Duck Lake is housed in a large brick building that was constructed in 1914 as a Protestant Separate School. Photo Author

"Continental Divide" is a point on the continent where the rivers originate and flow in opposite directions west to the Pacific Ocean and east to Lake Winnipeg. This is the beginning of the Saskatchewan River (meaning Rapid River) from Rocky Mountain House (David Thompson Country), flowing south and east through the provinces of Alberta and Saskatchewan merging with the south branch east of Prince Albert and draining into Lake Winnipeg, a distance of some 1 205 miles

The Carlton Trail was the first main overland route before the coming of the transcontinental railway. It bore much of the same relationship to Saskatchewan as did the Oregon Trail to the Pacific North West Region of the United States. The Carlton Trail originated in 1840 following many trails of the Indian fur trader and explorer beginning on Portage Avenue in Winnipeg connecting Fort Garry, Portage La Prairie, Fort Ellice and Fort Qu'Appelle crossing the south branch of the Saskatchewan River at Batoche on to Fort Carlton then crossing the North Saskatchewan River at South West (S W) ¼ Section (Sec) 16 Twp 45 Rge 4 W 3rd Mer winding past wooded areas and low marshlands in a south and west direction through Twp 45 just north of the present site of the town of Blaine Lake, proceeding westward north of Red

Preserve Our Heritage
The Carlton Trail once passed this spot This was the busiest section of the great overland route linking Fort Garry
with Edmonton House during the fur-trade era A fast cart rate would make the 900 mile trip in six weeks. The trail
played a vital role in the fur trading freighting hunting and pioneering life of the northwest until after 1900. Many
famous travellers and explorers such as Sir George Simpson Cap Palliser Lord Milton and Dr Cheadle Lt
Butler Sandford Fleming and the Overlanders passed here seeking or leaving the friendly hospitality of Fort
Carlton 16 miles northwest The battle of Duck Lake occurred on the trail about three miles northwest of here on
March 26, 1885. Part of the trail is still west in the Okanese Indian Reserve.

Information Board with a legend The Carlton Trail located adjacent to the Duck Lake Regional Historical Museum Town of Duck Lake Saskatchewan Photo Author

Preserve Our Heritage

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On Iron Trail leading to Cariboo House, 1871. Photo Courtesy: Public Archives Canada C14426.

Ox team "Red River Carts". Photo Courtesy Provincial Archives of Alberta B5632.

berry Lake bypassing Fort Battleford to the north on to Fort Pitt, and ending at Fort Edmonton

The principal vehicle used on the Carlton Trail was the Red River Cart. This was a two-wheeled vehicle made of wood. No metal was used in its construction. Shaganappi (Green Buffalo hide) was used to some extent to bind its parts together. The cart had a pair of shafts between which an ox or a pony was placed to pull the cart along. The amount of supplies that could be hauled in one cart was 1/2 ton. The carts travelled in convoy with as many as fifty carts stretched out in single file. When driving over wet terrain they did not track one behind another for fear of the ruts deepening.

The distance covered in a days travel under average conditions was approximately 20 miles. Crossing the South and North Saskatchewan Rivers was by scow (a large flat bottom boat which was floated upstream for a ways then paddled across to an approximate landing site). Crossings were hazardous during times of high water and swift currents of the rivers. Many hardships were encountered along the trail and fear of attack by the Indians was a constant threat.

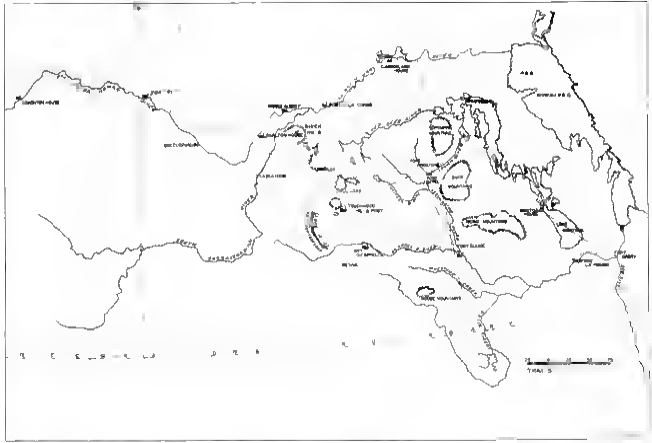
The Carlton Trail gave birth to many inland branch trails across the Western Plains. A branch trail in a north west direction from the Carlton crossing that was used by the Hudson's Bay Company to the far north was known as the Green Lake Trail. To many of the area it is

Loading of a Scow on the North Saskatchewan River Photo Courtesy Provincial Archives of Alberta B3626.

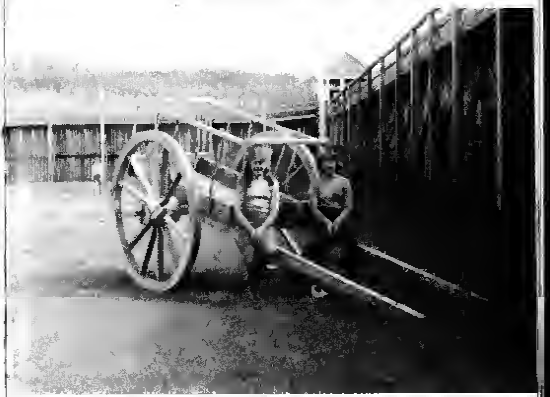
Rafting on the North Saskatchewan River Photo Courtesy Provincial Archives of Alberta, B9941

Dog sled on the winter trail Photo Courtesy Provincial Archives of Alberta. B3731

Dog Sled, in the compound of Fort Carlton Historic Park This type of a sled was used on the winter trails Carlton Trail and trails to outlying posts in the north etc. Photo Author



TRAIL MAP Based on a map prepared by the Historic Sites Division of the Saskatchewan Government



Red River Cart within the compound of the Historic Park of Fort Calgary. Seated on the shafts of the Cart are tourists left Shauna Dawne Emerson Edmonton Alberta. Right Lisa Susan Zmud Saskatoon Saskatchewan. Photo Author

known as the Snake Plain Trail. Travel on the trail during the winter was not extensive, mostly by dog sled. When the steam boats made their appearance on the Saskatchewan River the use of the trail slowly diminished.

Steam Boats (Stern Wheelers) on the Saskatchewan 1870-1911

The Hudson's Bay Company from the opening of its first inland post from the Bay (Cumberland House) in 1774 depended on canoes and later on York boats to transport trade goods and furs out of the vast hinterland.

The York boat (a large boat which was paddled up and down the river by recruits of men from the Hudson's Bay Company) was used for transportation before steam boats came into existence.

Early in the 1870s the Hudson's Bay Company introduced steam navigation on the Saskatchewan River. The first boat was unnamed. It was fully loaded with cargo and was wrecked on the rapids of the river on its maiden voyage. It was soon replaced by the Northcote. A second boat named Lily was assembled above Grand Rapids in 1877. Five years later more boats were added: "Manitoba", "Northwest", "Marquis", etc.

York Boats under sail. Photo Courtesy Glenbow Archives, Calgary, Alberta. NA-4201 1

The first York Boats went into service of the Hudsons Bay Company in 1794. They were the biggest freight carrier on the Athabasca Slave and McKenzie Rivers capable of carrying 4 tons in addition to a crew of eight.

Each boat was provided with one large sail oars and ropes with harness for portaging and tracking.

The last boat went into service with the Hudson's Bay Company in 1923. Thus being part of the river scene for almost 150 years.

York Boat on the bank of the North Saskatchewan River at the Historic Park of Fort Edmonton Alberta. Photo Author

En route westward from Grand Rapids a steam boat would dock at fur trading posts and new farm settlements along the river. The Pas, Cumberland House, Prince Albert, Fort Carlton, Fort Battleford, Fort Pitt and finally dock in Fort Edmonton. The boats brought supplies to traders, explorers, missionaries, surveyors, early settlers and farm machinery. The trip upward bound took two weeks to cover the distance of some 940 miles. A steam boat fully loaded could transport as much cargo to the forts on one trip as could five hundred carts down the trail in one season.

Transportation by steam boat rapidly increased the movement of goods as compared to the overland route. Thus transportation by water lessened the hardships of transportation of the overland route. This was the beginning of a new era. River navigation was a problem during times of low water levels. High water levels in the spring and mid summer provided the best navigation systems. Water levels rose as much as 26 feet above normal which brought the water out to the rim of the river hills.

In June 1886 the Northwest left Grand Rapids with a cargo of 250 tons. Fifty tons were landed at Carlton, 15 tons at Battleford, 40 tons at Fort Pitt, 40 tons at

Stern Wheeler on the North Saskatchewan River, from an oil painting by Agatha Stupnikoff

Victoria and 100 tons at Edmonton Cargoes consisted of flour lumber shingles farm machinery merchant goods beer and passengers A cabin fare to Edmonton was fifty four dollars, and only thirty four dollars if you slept on the deck The meals were fifty cents.

The early settlers of the Carlton Region depended largely on steam boat navigation for supplies and goods These were unloaded at Carlton The early settlers who made entry on land near the river still recall the era of the steam boats as they navigated up and down the river

The last of the steam boats operating out of Prince Albert in the last two decades of the twentieth century were "Alberta," "George V," Saskatchewan" and "Marquis." The Marquis was later beached in Prince Albert ending an era of steam navigation on the Saskatchewan River

Hudson's Bay Steamer "Graham" unloading supplies at Fort Edmonton Photo courtesy Provincial Archives of Alberta B2900.

*Side Wheeler on the North Saskatchewan River. Photo Courtesy Provincial Archives of Alberta B*9219*

Fort Edmonton. Photo Courtesy Hudson's Bay Company, Winnipeg, Manitoba. F 6.

Surveyors 1857–1904

In the daily operation of their individual enterprise the agricultural people of the prairies seldom pause to contemplate the origination of the numerical identification of each section or quarter section of prairie land they occupy. Courageous efforts and sacrifices were made by parties of men the explorers and the surveyors, who brought delicate survey instruments into the prairie region to explore, divide and subdivide the prairies into equal parcels of land over terrain challenging and untamed.

An expedition in October 1857, headed by Thomas Blakiston, brought the first survey instruments by York boat to Carlton House. This expedition also charted the Saskatchewan River.

The Dominion of Canada was a very young nation in 1870 when the gigantic area of Rupertsland previously held by the Hudson's Bay Company was acquired. To insure Canadian ownership of this territory it was essential to attract settlers. Subdivision of land was a necessary prerequisite to homesteading and railway funding.

Survey work had started in 1869 in Manitoba under J. S. Dennis. Prior to 1871 only a small area centred on the Red River Settlement had been surveyed. The Dominion government had unfortunately not consulted the Metis. The misunderstandings which arose were the basic cause of insurrection known as the Red River Disturbance of 1869–1870 and the North West Rebellion of 1885 which was to delay the surveying of the West.

The Manual of Surveys was issued in 1871. John S. Dennis was appointed Surveyor General of Dominion Lands as he was largely responsible for the system of Manual Surveys.

The year 1871 also saw the first thirteen parties of surveyors go out to begin the comparable survey task. Just north of the Assiniboine River on the prime meridian the surveyors were to erect the first official monument.

The surveyor was sent to do field work with traditional instruments of the time, the transit, theodolite, the steel band chain (surveyor's chain 66 feet in length), the compass, the chronometer, etc.

In 1882 survey parties left Winnipeg to begin the survey of the prairie region. The peak of activity was reached in 1883, a key time in the history of the survey.

The Dominion Lands survey system was a uniform plan. Without question it owed much to the system in use in the United States.

The first phase of survey was to divide the area into townships of 6 miles square; the second phase of the survey divided each township into 36 sections, and the third phase divided the sections into quarter sections of 160 acres. Townships were numbered northward from a base line on the 49th parallel; ranges of townships were numbered east and west from the principal meridian, known as the Winnipeg Meridian. A fixed road allowance of 1.50 chains in width was provided on all sides of the sections. This was the base system, and only minor changes were made later in the general pattern.

The first strip of townships lying east

Sandford Fleming expedition surveying for he orig nal C P R. ou e Sa katchewan R ver 18 . Photo Cou cy Sa ka chewan Archives Board R B 1448.

Survey Crew. Photo Courtesy Glenbow Archives Alberta Interior NC — 2-27

and west on the international boundary was referred to as "Township number one." Each successive strip to the north of it was numbered in numerical order beginning at several different meridians of longitude. The strips of townships running north and south along the west side of the meridian in question were referred to as Rge 1 W 1st, W 2nd and W 3rd Mer., or as the case may be. The strip of townships to the west of it became Rge 2, Rge. 3, Rge. 4 and so on until the next meridian was reached. Stakes were placed at the north east corner of every section and township with numbers carved on them. Thus after the survey was completed every individual quarter section in the surveyed portion had its own numerical identification.

Survey parties in 1883 were headed by W. A. Ashe and Henry Selby in the Calhoun Region. The first survey of Twps. 44–45, Rges. 6–7 from the survey records of Henry Selby began on July 15, 1884 and was completed on April 1, 1885. This involved 140 quarter sections.

Because of an Indian uprising throughout the North West and the Rebellion of 1885 "Battle of Batoche", surveying was discontinued in that year. A special corps of the surveyors was organized to fight the rebels.

With a victory at Batoche by the Canadian Militia and the Indian uprising

suppressed throughout the North West, surveying of the region resumed and was completed by the year 1904.

Man has left his impression on the landscape in various ways in the prairie region. The prairie checkerboard so evident to a modern air traveller is the legacy of the surveyor. Without doubt the Dominion Lands Survey was one of the most outstanding achievements of the early part of the nation's history.

Surveyors Mound and Office at Survey Post of the first survey on the untamed Western frontier at the Hudson's Bay Co. of Fort Edmonton, Alberta. Photo Author 1964

Rebellion of 1885 (Metis)

The crisis came when the Hudson's Bay Company sold the West to the Canadian Government. This disturbed the Metis population. The transfer of their land was made without their consultation. Their resentment grew when the government surveyors began chaining across their narrow River Lots threatening their land tenure. These lots had a narrow frontage on the river giving each tenant water rights, access to river transportation and proximity to their neighbors. The Metis feared their language and religion would not be respected by their new land owner. Surveying of land into 640-acre sections would have destroyed the solidarity of the Metis community and would have removed them from their land.

View of The St. Lawrence River Lowlands (circa 1870's) as seen along the East Bank of the South Saskatchewan River near the vicinity of the St. Laurent Ferry. Photo Author 1984.

When Riel summoned they came to protect their way of life their culture and their community

Riel and his council. Photo Courtesy Public Archives of Canada. C-6692

The Metis disturbed at the refusal of the Canadian government to recognize their problems sent a delegation to St Peters Mission in Montana. Louis Riel was recalled to negotiate with the government, to win back the support of the Metis. Riel, a Metis school teacher with his culture and education was able to give his people political leadership. He was concerned by the troubles of his people and returned to Batoche. The Metis formed a provisional government with a council of twelve headed by Louis Riel. Gabriel Dumont had been named commander in chief of the Metis forces. He possessed the qualities of a guerrilla leader. Riel worked energetically to solve the Metis problem but failed to persuade the government to take a different view of the Metis concerns. He was then of the opinion that perhaps a show of strength would persuade the government that the Metis were united and determined to have their grievances adhered to.

Fort Carlton, a trading post, was located in an area that was vulnerable to attack and could not withstand a siege. Prince Albert with its stores and warehouses was tempting for the Metis for much needed supplies.

On March 18 1885 a column of police left Regina to reinforce the detachment at Prince Albert. This alerted the Metis that a large police force was coming to arrest Riel and his supporters. To forestall the police Riel and his men seized arms and ammunition from two stores at Batoche and took some prisoners including a magistrate, two telegraph operators and an Indian agent. They then cut the telegraph line between Batoche and Prince Albert and took possession of the Batoche church building as headquarters.

Gabriel Dumont Photo Courtesy Saskatchewan Archives Board, R-A 6277

The police force at Fort Carlton increased by some eighty volunteers from Prince Albert. Dumont was then of the opinion that Fort Carlton should be attacked immediately. Riel determined to preserve the Metis moral position refused Dumont's request. The decision of the council of twelve was to capture the fort without conflict, by offering terms of surrender to Superintendent L. F. Crozier, commander of the North West Mounted Police (N.W.M.P.) detachment at Fort Carlton.

The mounted police column from Regina arrived at Prince Albert on March 24, a journey of 300 miles, in seven days through severe winter weather. The arrival of the police column warded off a band of Sioux Indians who had taken refuge on the South Saskatchewan River, presumably to attack Prince Albert.

On March 26, a police patrol from Fort Carlton reported to Crozier that they had been stopped by a large force of Metis, who were recovering supplies hidden in an abandoned store near Duck Lake. Crozier decided to show the Metis that the N.W.M.P. could not be obstructed by armed rebels. The mounted police and volunteers proceeded to disperse the Metis.

The encounter with the Metis two miles from the Duck Lake store was a futile attempt. In a brief battle that lasted about 40 minutes, Crozier had to make a difficult and costly retreat under fire. Twelve men had died and eleven were wounded, a bullet had grazed Crozier's cheek. The Metis losses were four dead and Dumont had received a head wound.

While the Metis, in the Duck Lake encounter won a military victory they had lost the campaign to gain recognition from the government.

News of the Duck Lake conflict reached Ontario and Quebec the next day after the encounter. Crozier's experience at Duck Lake confirmed Commissioner A. G. Irvine's opinion that the police force was not large enough to suppress the Metis and should concentrate on the defense of Prince Albert and await mili-

Riel's Headquarters in 1885 (North West Rebellion 1885. Battle — Roman Catholic Mission — Saskatchewan)
Photo Courtesy Saskatchewan Archives Board S-B-6758

DUCK LAKE BATTLEFIELD
HERE ON 26TH MARCH 1885, OCCURRED THE FIRST COMBAT BETWEEN THE CANADIAN GOVERNMENT FORCES UNDER MAJOR L. N. F. CROZIER, AND THE METIS AND INDIANS, UNDER GABRIEL DUMONT.
ICI LE 26 MARS, 1885 EUT LIEU LA PREMIERE RENCONTRE ENTRE LES TROUPES DU GOUVERNEMENT DU CANADA, COMMANDEES PAR LE MAJOR CROZIER, ET LES METIS ET INDIENS COMMANDES PAR GABRIEL DUMONT.

Cairn marks the site of the Duck Lake Battlefield March 26 1885.

Cairn location is on the Okemasis and Beardy Indian Reserve No's 96 and 97 along Highway 212 to Fort Carlton Historic Park. Photo Author

tary reinforcements. On the night of March 27-28 Fort Carlton was evacuated and mysteriously went down in flames.

Prime Minister Sir John A. McDonald dispatched Major Frederick Middleton commander in chief of the Canadian Militia, to the West to take command of military operations. The left wing of the 90th Winnipeg rifles, a force of five hundred men was dispatched by train to the Qu'Appelle station two days before the general's arrival at Winnipeg on March 27.

Having won the Duck Lake encounter Riel turned to agitate the Indian tribes for an uprising throughout the North West. With numerous Indian uprisings the army would be scattered as they suppressed the disturbances, while trying to protect the settlers at the same time. Riel's plan was to completely demoralize the slink ng force of the Canadian Army. Riel then hoped to capture General Middleton and other senior officers, and force the Canadian government to settle on Metis terms.

Riel placed a great value on Batoche. Batoche was the home of the Metis the nucleus of their community which Dumont was surrounding with well planned trenches and rifle pits. This type of defense nibbed the Metis of a guerrilla type of attack and they were compelled to fight a conventional battle against an armed force that was superior both in equipment and training for warfare of this type.

Middleton and his troops began their march from Fort Qu Appelle on April 10 toward Batoche. Another column from Swift Current of three hundred troops under the Command of Lieut. Col. W. D. Otter of Toronto was marching to join him at Clarke's Crossing. The combined force was to proceed to take Batoche.

An Indian uprising broke out 100 miles to the West of Batoche. The Cree and Assiniboine Indians united and occupied Fort Battleford while four hundred inhabitants and settlers took refuge in the N.W.M.P. fort. Cree Indians also attacked Fort Pitt, a Hudson's Bay post between Fort Battleford and Fort Edmonton and forced its abandonment. Instead of joining Middleton's troops to attack Batoche Otter received orders to advance to Fort Battleford.

On April 23 Middleton's troops marched from Clark's Crossing. Dumont knowing the size of Middleton's army knew the Metis could not hold out at Batoche against such a force. Indians and Metis led by Dumont attempted guerrilla tactics by setting up an ambush in a ravine at Fish Creek to demoralize the troops. The surprise attack was lost when Middleton's scouts spotted some Indians who left their positions prematurely.

Middleton's forces, repelled the ambush but suffered casualties in their encounter. Ten soldiers were killed and forty were wounded. Dumont's losses were eleven killed and eighteen wounded. This halted Middleton's advance on Batoche for some two weeks, to await reinforcements and evacuate the wounded.

When Middleton resumed his march to Batoche, he had a navy - the Hudson's Bay steamer Northcote, that arrived on May 9 after a long delay.

The steamer was unable to make quick passage due to low water. While moving downstream the steamer encountered heavy rifle fire from Metis and Indians hidden on the river bank at the Gabriel's Ferry Crossing. This caused the captain to lose control of the wheel and the boat drifted into a ferry cable that was previously lowered by the Metis. The cable sheared off the upper deck, the smoke stacks and the whistle, that was to be used as a signal to keep in touch with the movement of the troops.

The arrival of the stern wheeler brought supplies, reinforcements, scouts and a Gatling gun. (Gatling gun was a gun that had from four to ten barrels that rotated when turned by a crank firing five hundred rounds a minute.) The gun was loaned by a Fire Arms Company at Hartford Connecticut for use in the campaign. The gun was manned by Captain A. L. Howard not as an official of the United States army but as a demonstrator of the Gatling machine gun.

On May 10 the "Northcote" was joined by the "Marquis" another Hudson's Bay Company boat at the Hudson's Bay Ferry Crossing below Batoche. After several more embarrassing delays the two boats reached Batoche. However by then the battle was all over.

The Battle of Batoche was fought on the outskirts of the village, where the Metis had built a skillful defense system of rifle pits and trenches commanding all entry points. Thirty rows of rifle-pits were arranged in a semi circle. In each row there were from five to twenty five well dispersed pits. Above the pit was a breast work of earth, rocks, and slotted logs for firing. This was camouflaged by small branches thrust in the top.

Some three hundred Metis and Indians led by Louis Riel and Gabriel Dumont defended Batoche. The Metis except for a few Winchester repeater rifles were armed with muzzle loaders, firing either ball or shot. The North West Field Force

General Frederick Middleton. Photo Courtesy Public Archives of Canada PA 12197

Militia Camp at Batoche, 1885. Photo Courtesy, Provincial Archives of Alberta. A 5585

Gabriel [illegible] Spring 1[illegible] on the South B[illegible]ch of he Sa[illegible]hewan River. A[illegible]h's ferry crossing, he Hudson's Bay Steamer Northcote encountered heavy rifle fire from hidden Metis and Indians on the river banks during the Battle of Batoche May 1885. Photo Cou[illegible]tesy Saskatchewan Archives Board. R-B397

of eight hundred troops, under the command of Major General Frederick Middleton attacked Batoche. The troops were armed with single shot Snider a weapon that was superior by having much greater range.

The Metis after three days of battle, were reduced to charging their muzzle loaders with nails, tacks and gravel. The battle ended the Metis resistance. They scattered into the woodland and slowly surrendered to the Canadian troops. Riel surrendered to three of Middleton's scouts on May 15, 1885. On August 1, 1885 Riel was found guilty of treason and was executed by hanging at the Mounted Police barracks in Regina on November 16, 1885. On December 9, Riel's body was transported to St. Boniface. Man. total in a railway box car. Riel returned to the Red River, the place of his birth and the scene of his greatest political triumphs. He was a Provisional Governor of Manitoba and after confederation was elected as Member of Parliament although he had never taken his seat. Louis Riel is buried in the grounds of the Basilica in St. Boniface.

Dumont escaped to Montana. A short time later in July 1886 the Canadian government granted Dumont a full pardon. He returned to Batoche in 1890 and found that Middleton's troops had destroyed his barns and burnt his house. He built a cabin on the farm of his cousins, and continued a quiet life of hunting, fishing, and trapping. He passed away in 1906 and was buried at Batoche in the cemetery adjacent to the Rectory.

After the Metis defeat at Batoche the troops were occupied suppressing the Indian unrest through the summer. By the

(North West Rebellion — 1885) Coulee at Fort Qu'Appelle. 'A' W.T. 12th and 35th Regiments and Winnipeg Cavalry. Yo k and Simcoe Batteries en route through Touchwood Hills to Humboldt Saskatchewan Lt. Col. Wm. E. O'Brien on white horse commanding the York and Simcoe Battalions. Photo Courtesy Public Archives of Canada. C1876.

end of the summer the soldiers of the North West Field Force returned to their homes. They were offered a choice of rewards: land grants of 320 acres or a special campaign medal and eighty dollars if they preferred cash. General Middleton received twenty thousand dollars as a reward from the Canadian Parliament and was knighted by the Queen.

With the defeat at Batoche pride, self-confidence, and the spirit of the Metis was shattered. Their last stand as a distinct and united people was destroyed with the North West Rebellion in May 1885. The Metis like their counterpart the Indian were naturally equipped for life on the Western Frontier. The superiority of the Metis on the Western Plains had

Peters Album #11. Riel a prisoner, 1885. Photo Courtesy, Public Archives of Canada.

From the Canadian Pictorial and Illustrated War News, Souvenir 11 August—9 Sept. 1915. P[illegible] Photo Courtesy Saskatchewan Archives Board R-A 287

Louis Riel's Monument in the grounds of the Basilica St Boniface Manitoba. Photo Courtesy Saskatchewan Archives Board. R-A 4066.

Gabriel Dumont's Monument 1838-1906 on the Batoche Cemetery adjacent to the Rectory. Photo Author 1983

(North-West Rebellion — 1885) Riel addressing the Jury in Court House Regina Saskatchewan. Photo Courtesy Public Archives of Canada. C 1879

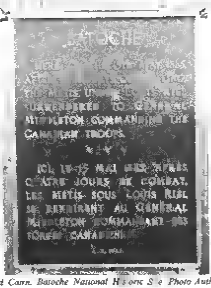
North West Mounted Police Detachment at Batoche 1891 Photo Courtesy Saskatchewan Archives Board. S 978.

gone. The Frontier was a land where the Metis belonged but were displaced with the opening of the land to trade and settlement -

The government belatedly allowed the special survey of the River Lots to remain offering Metis land or money scrip. Not all Metis remained to benefit many that had taken land scrip passed it over when a speculator offered a cash payment. A land title had no meaning to the Metis as individual ownership of land was not a part of Metis culture.

Some Metis in later years, prospered as farmers and merchants. A large number holding to their culture were unwilling or unable to adapt. They remained on sub-marginal land and received no consideration as a distinct and separate people. With their future insecure they attempted to resort to the new conditions of settlement.

The land issue with the Metis was not the real problem. The Metis went down in history like other men risking their lives protecting their way of life, their culture and their community. It all ended for the Metis with the Battle of Batoche.



Batoche Church Rectory and Cairn. Batoche National Historic Site Photo Author 1983

H[illegible]orical Museum at Batoche Photo Author 1983

St. Laurent Ferry on the South Saskatchewan River Photo Author 1984.

Early Settlers, Mennonites 1874–1920

The Early Settlers who pioneered into the agricultural prairies of Western Canada were of many cultural and ethnic origins

One must consider the impact of the variations in the settlers customs, beliefs and values, and their social environment which influenced settlement and decision making. Much has been made of the action of ethnic groups molding landscapes into distinctive cultural landscapes of the Prairie West. Although many groups participated in creating ethnic communities, each in their distinctive varying way the groups that extracted concessions from the government, which allowed them to mold expressions of their beliefs and practices in the landscape they produced were the "Old Colony" Mennonites and people of Doukhobor Faith. The government allowed such groups to settle en bloc of land some similarity of beliefs was the basis of the unique aspects of their settlements.

These aspects of Christian beliefs as an old world settlement pattern finds its origins in Medieval Europe. Since 1868 a clause of the Militia Act allowed pacifist citizens for reasons of Faith be exempt from military service.

The Mennonite migration to Canada began in the 1870's. By the year 1900 some eight thousand Mennonites had migrated to Canada in separate groups. They were assured of religious freedom free of political harassment by the Canadian government. This was the beginning of a new frontier of group settlement, in the untamed wilderness of the Western Prairies.

The first Mennonite group to migrate to Canada settled on a bloc of land of some eight townships in the province of Manitoba. The odd and even numbered sections were for homestead entry by the Mennonites, excluded were all the Hudson's Bay lands within that bloc. The reserve was located east of the Red River and was known as the East Mennonite Reserve. As the migration continued the land in the east reserve became exhausted. A second reserve was established by the government, in the south west portion of the province known as the West Mennonite Reserve which consisted of some seventeen townships west of the Red River along the 49th parallel.

The completion of a railroad from Regina, through Saskatoon to Prince Albert in 1890 by the Qu'Appelle, Long Lake Saskatchewan Railroad Company, began an era of transportation and communication into the Carlton Region. The Duck Lake Post Office was established in 1879 on North East (N.E.)¼ Sec. 33 Twp. 43 Rge. 2 – W 3rd Mer. The postmaster was Albert Scott. In 1883 postal duties were taken over by Hillyard Mitchell who operated the post office until 1885 when it was closed due to the North West Rebellion. The post office was again re opened in 1888 with Amboise Fisher as postmaster. The Stobart Post Office served the Carlton Region, prior to the coming of the railroad.

The 1890 era saw the establishment of a water tank along the newly constructed railroad. This was to be a source of water supply for the steam locomotives operating on the railroad. The water tank was

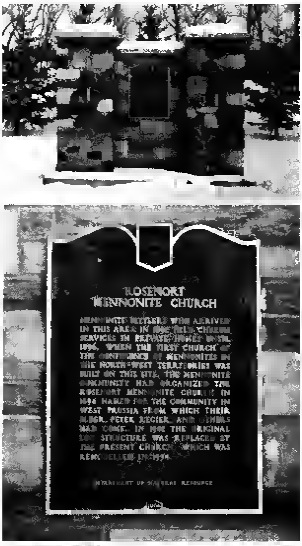
Mennonite Village Reinfeld, Manitoba 1898. Photo Courtesy Manitoba Archives Collection Mennonite 66.

located in an area on the North West (NW) of Sec 35 Twp 42 Rg 3 W 3rd Mer. A sign post was erected with a name plate stamped Rosthern identifying the location. With a continuing migration of Mennonites to Canada and a general increase in population the land made available in the Manitoba Reserve became overcrowded.

In 1891 Mennonite families numbering some one hundred and forty people came west by railroad in search of new homestead land and settled in the Rosthern area.

The Rosthern Post Office was established in 1893 with Gerhard Ens as postmaster. The post office and general store that were operated by Mr. Ens were located in a boxcar loaned by the Railway Company. This was the beginning of homestead settlement of the Rosthern area by individual Mennonites.

On a report dated 24th December 1894 from the Minister of the Interior stating that it has been represented to him on behalf of the Mennonite Settlers in Manitoba that there no Reserves in that Province are now overcrowded, owing partly to the influx of


ROSENORT
MENNONITE CHURCH
IN THE AREA IN 1892 FIRST RELIGIOUS
SERVICES IN PRIVATE HOMES UNTIL
1896, WHEN THE FIRST CHURCH OF
THE NORTHERN MENNONITES IN
THE NORTH-WEST TERRITORIES WAS
BUILT ON THIS SITE. THE MENNONITE
CONFERENCE HAD ORGANIZED THE
ROSENORT MENNONITE CHUR...H IN
1894 NAMED FOR THE COMMUNITY IN
WEST PRUSSIA FROM WHICH THEIR
ELDER, PETER REGIER, AND OTHERS
HAD COME. IN 1952 THE ORIGINAL
LOG STRUCTURE WAS REPLACED BY
THE PRESENT CHURCH WHICH WAS
REMODELLED IN 1954
1896 1954

Rosenort Mennonite Church Mennonite settlers who arrived in the area in 1892 held church services in private homes until 1896, when the first church of the Conference of Mennonites in the North West Territories was built on this site. The Mennonite community had organized the Rosenort Mennonite Church in 1894, named for the community in West Prussia from which their elder Peter Regier and others had come. In 1952, the original log structure was replaced by the present church which was remodelled in 1954. Department of Natural Resources 1986.

Rosenort Mennonite Church Cairn, located on site adjacent to the Eigenheim Mennonite Church along Highway 312 9 km West of Rosthern Saskatchewan. Photo Author

Cairn, commemorating Gerhard Ens, *located in the Town of Rosthern, Saskatchewan*
Photo Author

their fellow-countrymen from the United States and Europe and partly to the natural increase which has taken place since their first settlement in Manitoba, and that, in order to meet the growing needs of their families, and to encourage the settlement of their fellow-countrymen in Canada, it becomes necessary for them to ask the Government to establish a reservation for them from lands in the Prince Albert District.

The Minister further states that for this purpose they request that the even-numbered sections in the following townships, be reserved, viz: Townships 40 in Ranges 3 and 4, and Township 41 in Range 4, all West of the 3rd Meridian.

The Minister observes that the principle of establishing reserves of land for settlement by Mennonites was first given effect to by an Order in Council of the 3rd of March 1873 which set apart certain Townships East of the Red River in the Province of Manitoba, for the purpose, and that a second Reserve for the same purpose was established West of the Red River by a subsequent Order in Council dated the 25th of April 1876.

These two reservations, however, included both the odd and even-numbered sections in the Townships set apart whereas the present application asks for the reservation of the even numbered sections only the intention of the Mennonites being to arrange for the purchase of the odd numbered sections from the Railway Company for which they are now set apart as a subsidy.

The Minister further states that these people have prospered to a remarkable degree since their arrival in Manitoba, and fulfilled with singular good faith all the obligations undertaken by them in that behalf, enjoying the advance of money made to them with interest to the last cent, and fully colonizing their reservations with the choicest settlers. They represent that it is now their intention to assist with their own means their fellow-countrymen in Europe and elsewhere, to remove to and settle upon the tract now applied for and that fifty families whom they expect at the Spring, will go direct to the proposed Reserve, if it be made available for the purpose.

The Minister is of opinion that it is important in the public interest, that the efforts of the Mennonites to induce the immigration of their friends in Europe and elsewhere to the North West, should be encouraged, and to do this it is necessary to give the intending settlers an assurance that they will be enabled to carry out the principles of their Social System and to settle together in hamlets (for which provision is made by Section 37 of the Dominion Lands Act) by obtaining entries for contiguous lands.

The Minister with this view recommends that he be authorized to reserve for entry by Mennonites only the even numbered sections (exclusive of Hudson Bay Company's Lands) in the following Townships solas as they may be at the disposal of the Government viz — Townships 40 in Ranges 3 and 4 and Township 41 in Range 4, all West of the 3rd Meridian.

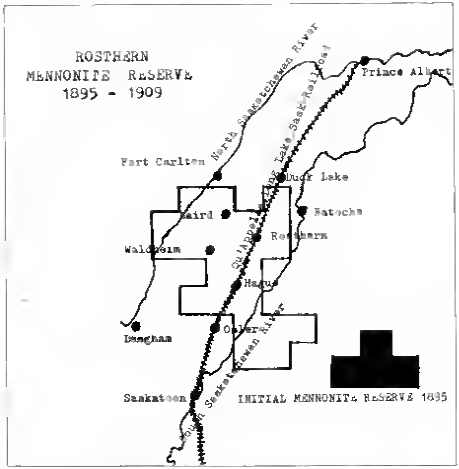
The Committee submit the foregoing for Your Excellency's approval.

Clerk of the Privy Council.

Early Settlers Temporary Quarters, Hague Ohio Area 1913. Rosthern Mennonite Reserve Photo. Courtesy Saskatchewan Archives Board. N.W. Farmer 1903 p. 497 Photo Source Hella Bateman Osler Saskatchewan.

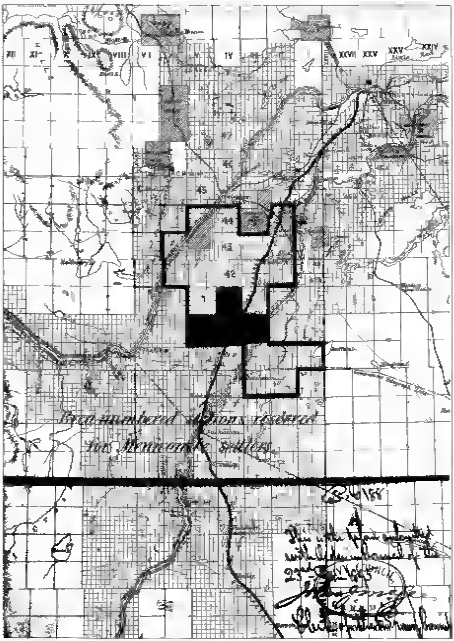
In the year 1895 the Rhineland Mennonite Association made application for reserve land in the Rosthern area. The government granted a reserve of four townships North of Saskatoon along the railroad in the Hague Osler area. The reserve was located in Twp 40 Rges 3 5 and Twp 41 Rge 4 all West of the Third Principal Meridian. An additional township was also added to the initial reserve Twp 41 Rge 3 - W 3rd Mer. All the even numbered sections were for settlement by the Mennonites, the odd numbered sections were granted to the railway company also excluded were all Hudson Bay lands.

By the year 1897 approximately two thousand Mennonites settled in the initial Rosthern Reserve. This exhausted all available land, and an additional nineteen townships were reserved by the government. The additional townships were clustered around the initial reserve. The Mennonites were also allowed to reach an agreement with the Qu'Appelle, Long Lake, Saskatchewan Railway Company



Map showing, Rosthern Mennonite Reserve.

Eglise in Memoriam Church *located along Highway 312 9 km West of the Town of Rosthern Saskatchewan. Photo Author*


Boundary of Rosthern Mennonite Reserve
Township 43 Range 3 West of the 2nd Meridian
Township 43 Range 4 West of the 2nd Meridian
Township 43 Range 5 West of the 2nd Meridian
Township 44 Range 3 West of the 2nd Meridian
Township 44 Range 4 West of the 2nd Meridian
Township 44 Range 5 West of the 2nd Meridian
Township 45 Range 3 West of the 2nd Meridian
Township 45 Range 4 West of the 2nd Meridian
Township 45 Range 5 West of the 2nd Meridian
Township

for the purchase of the odd-numbered sections. This was to insure a place for all Mennonites in the reserve.

The village settlements in the Rosthern Reserve were of the Strassendorf pattern, similar to the settlements of the Manitoba Reserves, a pattern of Old World settlements.

The term Strassendorf refers to the village pattern which consists of one street with individual lots on either side. An individual lot was large enough to contain all farm facilities, including connected house and barn, livestock facilities, machinery storage, and garden plots.

The Mennonite families pooled their quarter sections of homestead land, numbering from eight to thirty families. Within that block of land they located their village. They co-operatively purchased that portion of land, approximately ½ section to 1 section, depending on the size

Mennonites arriving in Rosthern by train from Russia. Photo Courtesy Saskatchewan Archives Board. Photograph No. S-B 4576.

Mennonite Settlement, 1910. Public Archives Canada PA 18145

Pioneer Family of the Southern Reserve in Manitoba: Mr. and Mrs. John J. Dyck in grave from Chortitza Russia to Canada in 1891

From the Diary of J. J. Dyck: "Here we acquired land and the Lord blessed the labor of our hands with earthly goods. We suffered want no more. We offered thanks to the Lord. We learned to acknowledge His will through His word." Photo and Diary Source: Grandchildren J. H. Dyck Family

of the village. The property was deeded to their church or the village organization. This was to insure that the system would be maintained if an individual withdrew.

Although lumber was available few were able to afford it. The village dwellings were built from notched poplar logs, smoothly plastered with a mixture of clay mud and straw. The roofs were thatched with straw or sod to complete the dwellings.

The first group of Mennonites that settled in the Rosthern Reserve received aid from the government in the form of a loan for the purchase of supplies, machinery and seed. The groups that followed were then assisted by the former group.

The first flour mill was erected in Rosthern in 1896. Prior to that time the Mennonite settlers greatly depended on the Prince Albert settlement for much needed goods and supplies such as seed grain, flour, lumber, etc.

By 1904 most of the Rosthern Reserve was settled and some thirty-one villages made their appearance in the reserve as follows:

Gruefeld	Steinreich
Schoenwiese	Lake Park
Gruenthal	Edenburg
Rheinland	Schmitsburg
Newhorst	Silberfeld
Blumenthal	Halbstatt
Hochstadt	Blumenfeld
Nueanlage	Hoffnungsort
Rhenenheim	Steinbach
Chortitz	New Home
Kronsthal	Nonhoffnung
Rosenfeld	Rosengrat
Osterwick	Rosenbach
Hochfeld	Schoenthal
Rheinfeld	Blumenart
Oglafeld	

Pioneer Days, from an oil painting by Agatha Snyderhoff

Mennonite House and Attached Barn Rosthern Mennonite Reserve. Photo Courtesy Saskatchewan Archives Board. S-B 4577 Photo Source, J. J. Rosdorf Rosthern, Saskatchewan.

Mennonite Settlement Blumenhof C. 1911 with a supply of winter fuel (coal). Photo Courtesy Saskatchewan Archives Board. R-A 2753

In 1904 the Rhineland Mennonite Association of Manitoba was seeking more agricultural land for settlement. Their request for land south of the town of Swift Current was granted. The Minister of the Interior, Clifford Sifton, reserved six townships for the Swift Current Mennonite Reserve.

Due to subsequent political changes, government interference was evident in the Mennonite Reserve Settlement in 1909. The government made available for general settlement all the land that was not occupied by Mennonites, thus eliminating all reserve boundaries. The interference in the German schools by replacing them with English speaking public schools, proved intolerable to many of the conservatively minded "Old Colony" Mennonites as German instruction would preserve Mennonite culture. In 1922 some five hundred and fifty left the Rosthern Reserve and migrated to Mexico and later to South America.

The Mennonites that remained continued to farm with some families moving to their individual homesteads while others lived in the village and each farmed their individual land.

Mennonite leaving Hague for Mexico 1922. Rosthern Mennonite Reserve. Photo Courtesy Saskatchewan Archives Board. Photograph No. S-B 457

Early Settlers, Doukhobors 1899–1907

The government concessions made to the Mennonites, and the experiment of settling the prairies with communities of experienced agricultural people proved satisfactory to the government. The government enacted similar concessions to the Russian Doukhobors prior to their migration to Canada in 1899.

The plight of a group of religious pacifists, who were under oppression and severe persecution in Czarist Russia, attracted the attention of Count Leo Tolstoy, and the Society of Friends in England and America. With their aid the mass migration of Doukhobors to Canada was to begin. This group of God fearing people were willing to endure the hardships of a new beginning. The open and unfamed Canadian prairies were the new horizons where the Doukhobors hoped to live within their beliefs, free of oppression.

On a Report dated 30th November 1898 from the Minister of the Interior stating the arrangements have been completed with Mr Aylmer Maude of London England, the representative of the sect of Russian known as Doukhobors who now inhabit the slopes of the Caucasus in Russia, for the immediate emigration to Canada of several thousands of these people. This from a despatch dated 27th May 1898, addressed to the Foreign Office by Her Majesty's Consul at Batoum it would appear that since their settlement in the region of the Caucasus the Doukhobors have by their good behavior diligence sobriety and hard working qualities, brought nothing by prosperity to the barren localism in which they were originally settled, but as from religious doctrines they are averse to bearing arms, an exemption which the Russian Government has refused to continue, they have been permitted by the latter to depart from Russia.

The Minister under the circumstances, and considering that the Doukhobors would appear to be a most desirable class of settlers to locate upon the vacant Dominion Lands in Manitoba and the North West Territories, is of opinion that it is expedient to give them the fullest assurances of absolute immunity from military service in the event of their settling in this country.

The Minister submits that Sub Section 3 of Section 21 of the Militia Act Chapter 41 of the Revised Statutes of Canada, contains the following provision —

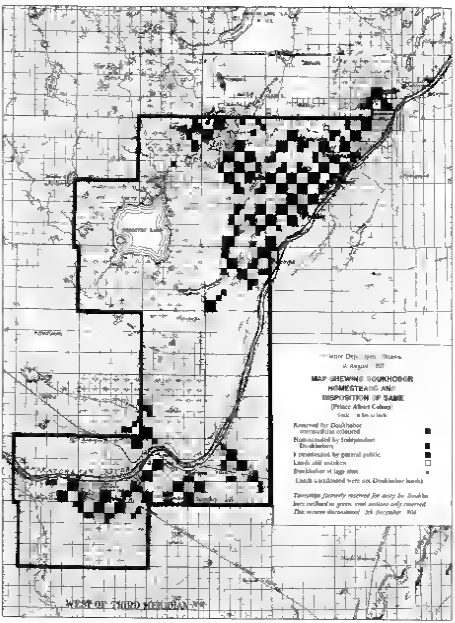
Every person bearing a certificate from the Society of Quakers Mennonites or Tunkers, and every inhabitant of Canada of any religious denomination otherwise subject to military duty who from the tenets of his religion is averse to bearing arms and refuses personal military service shall be exempt from such service upon paying such conditions and under such regulations as the Governor in Council from time to time prescribes.

The Minister recommends that under the power vested in Your Excellency in Council by the above provision the Doukhobors, settling permanently in Canada be exempt absolutely unconditionally from service in the Militia, upon his producing a duly issued certificate of membership from the proper authorities of their community.

The Committee submit the same for Your Excellency's approval.

Doukhobors were adapted to a communal lifestyle and were experienced farmers being vegetarians they depended largely on the skill of their gardening ability.

The agreement under which the Doukhobors came was not completely explained in detail. Misunderstanding on


MAP SHEWING DOUKHOBOR
HOMESTEADS AND
DISPOSITION OF SAME
Prince Albert Colony
Scale — 8 Miles to Inch
Reserved for Doukhobor
exemplified in colour
Homesteaded by Independent
Doukhobors
Reserved for general public
Lands sold outright
Doukhobor village sites
Lands unallotted to or ex Doukhobor hands
Township formerly reserved for sixty Jan Doukhobors
here outlined in green, now entirely sold
This reserve discontinued 5th December 1906
WEST OF THIRD MERIDIAN

Prince Albert Doukhobor Reserve, map showing Doukhobor Village Sites and Doukhobor lands. Courtesy, Saskatchewan Archives Board.

both sides, especially in land regulations eventually resulted in the dissolution of the reserves

The migration of some seven thousand four hundred Doukhobors began in December 1898. Two ships were commissioned for their transfer to Canada, the Huron and Lake Superior. These two ocean freighters were converted to accommodate the Doukhobors in their strenuous ocean voyage to the eastern Canadian port of Halifax

The first contingent of Doukhobors arrived in the Port of Halifax in January 1899. As the Doukhobor arrived was during the winter months they proceeded West by train and were housed in immigration halls in Winnipeg, Brandon Dauphin, Selkirk and Yorkton areas

The concessions were: No. 1. "Militia Act" unconditional exemption from the militia. No. 2 "Hamlet Act" which allowed the building of villages each village to constitute a settlement of not less than twenty families. They were allowed to settle in villages and make application for a homestead within a radius of 9 miles including road allowances which increased the radius to 11 miles. The Doukhobors were assured that they would not be required to reside individually on homesteads, as they were not accustomed to living on individual farms. Assurance was given that there would be no government interference into the internal organization of their community.

In the early spring the Doukhobor men began the construction of villages in the two Doukhobor Reserves in the Yorkton area. The North Colony in the Assiniboia area some 70 miles North of Yorkton was a reserve of six townships. The South Colony was some 30 miles North of Yorkton a reserve of fifteen townships. With the even numbered sections for settlement by the Doukhobors, the odd numbered sections were reserved by the government for selection by the railways. Some six thousand Doukhobors that arrived in the first three contingents settled in villages on the two reserves in the Yorkton area in 1899.

The last of the four contingents arrived in Halifax in June 1899. They proceeded by train to Winnipeg, where they were housed in immigration halls. The Doukhobor men worked on the railway gangs in the Winnipeg area for several months. The destination of this group was to the Northern Colony in the Carlton Region, the Prince Albert Doukhobor Reserve a reserve of twenty townships located from the west bank of the North Saskatchewan River bordered by the north boundary of Twp. 44, stretching West to include Rges. 5-9 W3rd Mer. then a boundary line due South crossing the North Saskatchewan River at Twp. 39 – Rge. 10 – W 3rd Mer. enhancing some three townships from the east bank of the river in Twps. 38-39 – Rges. 7-10 in the Langham area.

The group of some one thousand four hundred and fifty people after their stopover in Winnipeg, proceeded West by train to settle in the Prince Albert Reserve. They arrived at the Duck Lake station in the month of November with their meager belongings they had brought from Russia. The group spent a long and harsh winter sheltered in makeshift homes and tents, in the Duck Lake and Carlton Regions with assistance from the Society of Friends – "Quakers" who sent vital supplies of food and clothing, for their survival through the first winter on their new frontier.

The settlement of the Prince Albert Reserve began in the early spring of 1900. The settlers were crossing the river at the Carlton Crossing, Sec 5 – Twp 45 – Rge 4 – W 3rd Mer. which was now served by a cable guided ferry as compared to the hazardous crossing of the canoe, York boat and Scow. This cable ferry serving the area was operated by Mr. Modeste Boutassa under contract with the government. Triffic on the ferry in 1898 was 5,500.

The construction of villages on selected sites began in the years 1900-1902. The selection of village sites was made by

Carlton Ferry at the turn of the Nineteenth Century. Photo Courtesy Saskatchewan Archives Board S-B-4680.

Doukhobor Village from an oil painting by Agatha Verigin.

DOUKHOBOR HERITAGE
IN 1899 A GROUP OF DOUKHOBORS FROM RUSSIA ESTABLISHED THE FIRST VILLAGE OF KIRILOVKA 1/2 MILE WEST OF HERE. THE SECOND VILLAGE OF BOGDANOVKA, 5 MILES NORTH - WEST AND THE THIRD VILLAGE OF POKROVKA 11 MILES WEST
THESE SETTLERS, SEEKING RELIGIOUS FREEDOM, THRIVED DESPITE SEVERE HARDSHIPS, DEPRIVATIONS AND COLD
THIS PLAQUE IS DEDICATED TO THE FIRST PIONEERS AND ERECTED BY THE
DOUKHOBOR SOCIETY OF LANGHAM.

Cairn commemorating Doukhobor village settlements in the Southern portion of the Prince Albert Doukhobor Reserve Langham area 1899-1907
Cairn location five km west of the town of Langham along Highway No. 16, Yellowhead. Photo Author 1983.

DOUKHOBOR RESERVES

LIST OF VII LAGE SITES TO BE SURVEYED AND SUBDIVIDED INTO LOTS
PRINCE ALBERT RESERVE

Name of Village	Location	Area of site and remarks
Karilowa	N W 14 39-8-3	To be defined
Bodanolka	N W 20 39-8-3	To be defined
Fekrofka	W ½ 4 39-9-3	20 acres
Petrofka	W ½ of N W 30 42-8-3	80 acres except 2 30 ac reserved thereout for School site
Onspennie	S E 1 44-8-3	20 acres Balance of ¼ entered for
Slavenka	N E 17 44-5-3	20 acres Balance of ¼ entered for
Spasofke	N E 14 45-5 3	20 acres Balance of ¼ entered for
Pasar ofka	S W 27 44-6-3	20 acres Balance of ¼ entered for
Large Horelofka	E ½ of S W 35 44-8-3	80 acres
Small Horelofka	N W 31 44 7-3	20 acres
Trotzkas	W ½ 2 44 7-3	20 acres
Terpennie	S W 22 43-6-3	20 acres

One of the Prance Dwelling, Stable and barn remaining as evidence of the prance era in the Colony Region, located on S.E. ¼ Sec. 20 Twp. 44, Rge. 5 — W3rd Mer. in the R.M. of Blaine Lake #434. From an oil painting by Agathe Stagnitkoff

Early Settlers pioneering a log house with a mixture of clay mud and straw. Photo Courtesy Saskatchewan Archives Board. S-A 129

Doukhobors on Saskatchewan typical barn of the early settlements 1900-1907 Photo Courtesy Saskatchewan Archives Board. S B 2954.

Author's daughter-in-law dressed as her great-great-grandmother Anna Perchnadoff in the 1900's also wearing the wedding attire of the 1850's of her great-great grandmother Anna Perchnadoff. Traditional headscarf dress was hand sewn from material which was from home spun wool and home woven linen. Photo Author 1984

Doukhobors who preferred village sites close to heavily wooded areas with wells that would provide a sufficient amount of good quality water for the villagers The wooded areas were to be a source of building logs for the village dwellings

During this period twelve Doukhobor villages made their appearance, with nine of the villages located in an area that is now the Rural Municipality of Blaine Lake 434 — Petrovka Spasofka Large Harelofka Small Harelofka Terpenne Troitzkaa Pasanofka Gospennie and Slavenka

The remaining three villages were at the foot of the south boundary of the reserve on the opposite side of the river along the east bank in the Langham area — Karilowa Bodarofka and Fakrofka

The villages were laid out in the same pattern as they were in Russia also acquiring the former village names that certain groups of villagers had formerly lived in The village had a long street with houses built on either side, built from hewn logs smoothly plastered with a mixture of clay mud and straw The roofs were thatched with sod to complete the dwelling. Livestock facilities were also constructed in the same manner within the village area. The villages consisted of approximately fifteen homes per village with each house large enough to accommodate up to four families The population of each village was approximately one hundred and twenty people Petrovka was one of the first villages built on the west bank of the North Saskatchewan River Sec 30 Twp 43 Rge 6 W3rd Mer It was one of the focal points in the history of the province

Self-sufficiency helped the Doukhobors survive during the first years The cultivation of soil in a communal lifestyle began in the year 1900 with some 123 acres cultivated Hand guided plows were made by the villagers and drawn by oxen Furniture was made out of hand hewn wood Utensils such as spoons were also carved out of wood Spinning of linen thread that was later woven on home-made looms was made into homespun cloth Spinning of wool for hand knitted garments was made into sweaters, stockings, mitts, gloves, etc

Grist mills for the grinding of grain into flour were built near the villages of Terpenne, Spasofka and Bodanofka The Terpenne Grist mill was powered by a water wheel from a creek which was flowing through N W 4 Sec 16 Twp 42 Rge 6 W3rd Mer that merged with the North Saskatchewan River The residents of the area at the time named it Radouga Creek, symbolic of a rainbow

The year 1902 marked the turn of events in the Doukhobor communities A number of families preferring economic independence to the communitarian life style left the villages and made entry on homestead lands. Conforming to the Homestead Act they commenced living independently They were so called the "Independent Doukhobors."

Sunday Activities at Petrofka Village, Saskatchewan, 1903-04. Photo Courtesy Provincial Archives of British Columbia, C1623

G[illegible]ng ne f[illegible] hu[illegible]on the Prairies 1809 Ph[illegible]o Courtesy Pro[illegible]vincial Archives of Bri[illegible]h Columbia C-1430

Volunteer Doukhobor women picking up and carrying off bags of their own accord to help bring up the boat's cargo of supplies. Enough virgin sod for the planting of gardens. All able bodied men were assigned to the construction of large dwellings, while others traveled to Winnipeg to acquire work with the construction gangs on the railroad. This was the communitarian lifestyle of the Doukhobors. A vision of this nature by Doukhobor women occured only in one instance, in their new settlements in the Western Provinces. Photo Courtesy Saskatchewan Archives Board. S B 4260.

Form F
50 8-1

No. 2212

APPLICATION FOR A HOMESTEAD ENTRY BY AN AGENT

I, G. Sun, do hereby apply on behalf of Semen Pastukoff of the village of Rostern in the County of

for Homestead Entry under the provisions of sub-clause of Clause 16 of the Dominion Lands Act, for the N. W. Quarter Section of Section Number 16 of the 44 Township, in the 5 Range west of the 3rd Meridian

Semen Pastukoff

Prince Albert District.

Rosthern Sask. MAR 20 1902

NOTE.—The statistical information called for below will be obtained and filled in by the Agent when granting entry

Number in Family including entrant.	NATIONALITY	WHERE FROM	PREVIOUS OCCUPATION.
3	Doukhobor	Russia	Farmer

Form No. 1—1902-226.

(49)

Form H.

AFFIDAVIT by an Agent in support of Claim for Homestead Entry on behalf of a person who has not previously Settled on the Land

I, J. S. Ewa, do solemnly swear that Semen Postnikoff is Northern for whom I am acting herein as Agent, is over eighteen years of age that to the best of my knowledge and belief the land in respect of which the application is made is of the class open for homestead entry that there is no person residing upon the said land nor are there any improvements thereon

and that the application is made for the exclusive use and benefit of the said Semen Postnikoff with the intention of his residing upon and cultivating the said land and not directly or indirectly for the use or benefit of any other person or persons whomsoever and that he has not heretofore obtained an entry for a homestead on Dominion Lands.

Sworn before me at Yorkton this 20th day of March 1906 before me, Hayman & Dyke Sub-Dist. Agent.

J. S. Ewa

Sworn Statement of

Lewis F Podzikoff

in support of his application for Homestead Patent for the NW 1/4 of Section 6 Tp. 44 Rge. E of 3rd Meridian.

1. Your name in full, age and Post Office address?

Lewis F Podzikoff 27 years
Bradford

2. I reside [illegible] miles by [illegible] from [illegible] Post Office. My residence is [illegible]

3. When did you establish your residence upon this land?

4. When (if you built one) was your house finished? And when did you begin actual residence thereon?

5. What number of each, and about what time (as near as you can remember) was there of acres broken or fenced.

6. Where did you live previous to making settlement? And how long?

I have never lived upon any land in the State of Nebraska or the NW 1/4 of Sec 6 Tp 44 Rge E

7. If you have not resided upon and cultivated the land, state fully the reasons therefor.

(a) Describe each field.

(b) Where did you harvest this crop?

(c) How did you secure it?

(d) What implements have you on it?

(e) Do you own the well head of the pyramid land?

(f) What residence have you performed on it?

8. If when do your family reside; when did they first commence residence upon the homestead, and the what portion of time your wife and children have lived upon the land?

Year 1899	Sod	15	Corn 15 acres
Year 1900		20	
Year 1901		10	40
Year 1902		15	6
Year 1903		15	75
Year 1904			
Year [illegible]			

9. How much breaking have you done each year subsequent to first year and what was cultivated crops; the last never acre have been put into what crop?

10. How many houses with rooms, doors and glass of which you are owner, have you built on this homestead, and your claim since an additional entry? Give number of each kind.

11. What is the size of your house on your homestead, of what material, and what is its present condition?

12. What stock of domestic have you made on your homestead, and where is the same now? Give number thereof.

13. Can other [illegible] have you resided on your homestead? What other improvements? Give number thereof, and what is the cash value of the same?

Are there any timber trees of sufficient or available size upon your homestead? If so, state number of same, and when the last timber was taken off the above land? [illegible] for what purpose?

14. If you have not taken homestead, entry [illegible] date, describe fixed my residence.

15. Have you ever applied, assigned or transferred, or agreed to assign or transfer your entry, interest, homestead or any part thereof? If so, when and to whom?

Form No. 186 Page 1.

Rosthern

To the

I Simeon S. Podrutskoff ~~of~~ ~~Sask~~ do solemnly ~~declare~~ that the statements in the foregoing questions are true and correct in every particular. That I claim a Patent for this Homestead under the provisions of the Dominion Lands Act."

That I obtained an entry and claim a Patent for the same for my own benefit, and not in the interest of or for the benefit of any other person or persons whomsoever.

~~So help me God.~~

Sworn before me at Rosthern this 10 day of September 1907 by Simeon S. Podrutskoff having first been read over and explained to the said applicant.

Frank E. Hedrick
Agent of the Dominion Lands,

~~Homestead Inspector~~ for the Prince Albert District.

I recommend the foregoing application for Patent be issued that the homestead requirements of the Dominion Lands Act" have, in this case, been complied with.

Dated at Prince Albert, this 14th day of November A.D. 1907.

Local Agent for Dominion Lands for Prince Albert District.

Ottawa SEP 7 1907

Accepted as sufficient,

Acting Deputy Commissioner.

DATE OF CERTIFICATE OF NATURALIZATION 22-6-14
RECEIVED AND RETURNED TO HOMESTEADER
Sept 13 1907

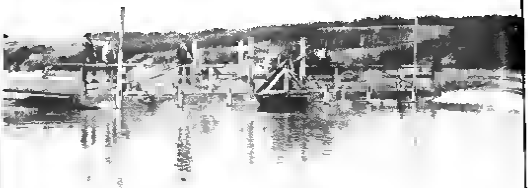
The Society of Friends "Quakers" from London England sent Michael Sherbinin a Russian expatriate nobleman in 1901 to the Prince Albert colony to begin teaching Doukhobor children to read and write in English and do simple arithmetic Sherbinin went to the Petrovka village where he first taught in the villagers houses and later in a lean to in a home he built for himself The classes were small and most of the student children were of independent Doukhobors. A permanent two-room school for Doukhobor children was built by British Quakers in the Petrovka village in 1906

One of the students that attended the Petrovka village school was Peter G Makaroff who later graduated from the College of Law Mr Makaroff was the first Doukhobor to obtain a degree in law

The government of the North West Territories in 1901 established a ferry near the site of the Petrovka village to facilitate Doukhobor communities access to markets at Rosthern some 30 miles away It was early known as the Doukhobor Ferry but later renamed after the former village. The ferry was operated by Mr N Postnikoff under contract with the government

The settlement of homestead lands from the west bank of the North Saskatchewan River that were not a part of the Prince Albert Doukhobor Reserve began in 1900 with entries being made on even numbered sections, by settlers of various origin The odd numbered sections were retained by the government for selection by railways

On September 28 1900 entry on a homestead was made by Hughes Gillies,



Petrofka Ferry 1917 R.N.W. Mounted Police on patrol crossing by ferry Photo Courtesy Saskatchewan Archives Board R.A 359

Pilgrims Fix i Harvest on the Prairies From an oil painting by Agatha Stupenkoff

aged 60, together with his family — a wife and ten children, on S.W¼ — Sec. 10 — Twp. 45 — 45 — Rge. 6 — W3rd Mer. In 1901 he built his house thereon. In 1903 it was established as the site of the first post office to serve the area — named the Gillies Post Office, operated by Mr. Gillies. Mail was delivered semi-weekly from Duck Lake, the nearest railway and telegraph station some 27 miles away.

On October 16, 1903 entry on a homestead was made by Jos. Parteneau, aged 40, together with his family — a wife and two children, on S.E¼ — Sec. 20 — Twp. 45 — Rge. 4 — W3rd Mer. In August 1903 he built his house thereon. This became the site of the second post office (serving the eastern portion of the area) named Chellwood Post Office. Mail was delivered four times a week from Duck Lake, the nearest railway and telegraph station some 18 miles away.

(The Chellwood and Gillies Post Offices were located on homestead lands in Twp. 45, this Twp. was not a part of the Prince Albert Doukhobor Reserve.)

On the prairie were the new horizons where the Doukhobors had hoped to live a lifestyle within their beliefs. However, the Canadian government was in the process of solidification. Untamed prairie wilderness, where every community was law within itself, had died with Louis Riel and the fallen Metis in the rebellion of 1885.

The Doukhobor homestead crisis between the government and the Doukhobors began in 1904. The concessions granted to the Doukhobors by Clifford Sifton, Minister of the Interior, and Wm. Mercery, Minister of Immigration, primarily in the Dominion Land Act, were re-interpreted by the newly appointed Minister of the Interior, Frank Oliver, who replaced Sifton. Acting on their interpretation of the law, the Community Doukhobors ignored government authority by failing to supply vital statistics, and by failing to conform with the Homestead Act, also refusing to sign the Oath of Allegiance. (The Community Doukhobors refrained from signing the Oath of

Gillies Post Office 1902. Photo Courtesy Saskatchewan Archives Board. Cochin Photo Album

Allegiance because the administering of an Oath was contrary to their beliefs)

From the
Book of Life of Doukhobors
Translated version 1978 relevant to Doukhobor beliefs This "Defence of a Christian" was composed by the Transcaucasian Doukhobors in 1894, when they refused to fulfill military duty and other government requirements

PSALM 374
A Christian's Defence

I am not going to give you my oath nor am I going to serve you because I am a Christian I do not wish to kill my brethern nor force them to commit violence, according to the words of our God and Lord Jesus Christ I consider all people living on earth as children of one Father and therefore my brothers. Our Lord and God Jesus Christ forbids us to take an oath Read the Gospel of Mathew chapter twenty three You will find there that the Lord forbids us to swear and swearing is taking an oath Even the law does not permit me to serve you because as a Christian, I should not prepare myself willingly to slay my brothers Read the Ten Commandments. It is written there "thou shalt not kill, or steal, not commit adultery Our Lord Jesus Christ also gave us two commandments orally The first commandment says "thou shalt love The Lord God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul and with all thy mind — this is the first and great commandment The second one says "thou shalt love thy brother and neighbour as thyself" On these two commandments rests all the law of God

Resentment and prejudice towards the community lifestyle of the Doukhobors, became evident by individual settlers outside the Doukhobor Reserve Sometimes Their grievance attracted the attention of the Minister of the Interior This became one of many factors that influenced the Minister in his recommendations for the government's action towards the Doukhobors at the time

Oliver appointed a special commission in 1905 headed by Reverend John McDougal Methodist minister to investigate the Doukhobor problem he was also instructed to enforce the homestead land regulations. Reverend McDougal, upon visiting the villages advised the Community Doukhobors on the basis of his own personal interpretation of the Hamlet Act Thus all entries on homestead land in excess of 3 mile radius from the villages must be occupied by those families who made entry on the said land. They must also conform with the Homestead Act, by signing the Oath of Allegiance and failure to do so would result in the disposition of their lands

The remaining land within the 3-mile radius of a village would remain for the Community Doukhobors an allocation of 15 acres per family would be granted Negotiations between Reverend McDougal and Peter W Verigin Spiritual Leader of Doukhobors resulted in failure with Doukhobors refusing to accept McDougal's interpretation Because of their religious faith as pacifists they offered no further resistance This began the dissolution of the Doukhobor Reserves. All even numbered sections that entries were not made on by the Doukhobors were open for entry to settlers of various origin in 1905

Two provinces were carved out of the North West Territories in 1905 the province of Alberta, with Edmonton as the Provincial Capital and the province of Saskatchewan with Regina as the Provincial Capital — also attaining the title of "Queen City" of the West

Gerhard Ens former postmaster of the Rosthern Post Office, and one who was active in the settlement of the Rosthern area by Mennonites was elected and served as a sitting member of the first legislative assembly formed in the new province of Saskatchewan in 1905

54113

L.M. Prince Albert, 29th August 1907

Memo for Head Office

Lot 4, 44-5-W 3rd Meridian.

Entry of Simon Konkin.

Cancelled on the 23rd Sept. 1907, under instructions received from the Doukhobor Commission'r.

Land open for entry the 10th June 1907.

Disposed of on the 12th of June, to Roderick McLennan, he being the first applicant.

Nothing paid for improvements.

reported to be 50 acres of breaking by Doukhobors.

Head Inspector instructed to report.

Copy for Homes'and Inspector Report No. 786

Form No 34

34333 HOMESTEAD INSPECTOR'S REPORT

No. of Report 846

Name of Homesteader Roderick McLennan

Land—In Rob Sec. 4 Tp 44 Rg 5 W 3

Entered _____ Residence _____

Post Office nearest to land Castlewood

Present Post Office address Aost-Knox

In residence or not. No

What residence has been performed None

House None Size _____ Value _____

Stable None Size _____ Value _____

Granary None Size _____ Value _____

Fencing Nature. _____ Value _____

Well—Value _____ other Improvements _____

_____ Value _____

Stock _____

Cultivation—No. of acres broken _____ Value _____

" " cropped _____ Value _____

Nature of soil _____ School _____

Area fit for cultivation _____

Marsh or Lake _____

Timber _____

Hay and _____

General remarks There is some Dock but it is very difficult to measure it now as it is covered with snow

James McKay
Homestead Inspector

Inspected Feb 26 08

[Turn over]

96

By the year 1907 all entries made on land by the Community Doukhobors were cancelled by the government for failure to comply with the homestead land regulations. The cultivation and improvements on all cancelled Doukhobor homestead lands in the Prince Albert Reserve were disregarded and no compensation was awarded to the Doukhobors in the Prince Albert Reserve by the government as a result of the cancellation. On June 1 1907 the community lands were opened for entry at the Prince Albert Lands Branch Office. The rush began for Doukhobor lands with several hundred applicants gathered at the Lands Branch Office two days prior to the opening as they were aware of the fact that much of this land was under cultivation.

In the years 1908 to 1910 one thousand Doukhobors adhered to the independence of individual farming, by making application for homestead land that was a part of their community prior to the dissolution of the reserve. Conforming with the Dominion Land regulations they remained to farm as Independent Doukhobors in the Prince Albert District. While adhering to their faith they slowly adapted to the society around them.

STATEMENT re DOUKHOBOR HOMESTEADS

Ottawa August 1 1907

The Doukhobor Commission deals with a total of 2,757 Doukhobor homesteads in the Yorkton, Prince Albert and Regina agencies —

There were cancelled on the recommendation of the Doukhobor Commissioner Doukhobors en rôle totalling	2,503
There were standing vacant Doukhobor homesteads which had previously been cancelled to the number of	79
There were standing reserved as village sites	39
There were entries standing of independent Doukhobors numbering	136
Total in three districts	2,757

Land Rush at the Prince Albert Land Office for Doukhobor land in the Prince Albert Doukhobor Reserve 1907. Photo Courtesy Saskatchewan Archives Board R-A 4557

STATEMENT re DISPOSITION OF DOUKHOBOR HOMESTEADS

Ottawa August 3 1907

Following is a memorandum showing how the 2,757 Doukhobor homesteads dealt with by the Doukhobor Commission have been disposed of—

Set apart as reserves for Doukhobor communities	768
Under entry to independent Doukhobors	384
Thrown open to the general public —	
Taken to date	1,211
Still unaken	394
	1,605
	2,757

Those Doukhobors who desired to continue a communal way of life left the province with their Spiritual Leader and moved to the Kootenay Valley in British Columbia, where they acquired land for a new beginning.

In 1909 another ferry was established on the North Saskatchewan River West of the village of Laird Sec 31 Twp 43 Rge 5 - W 3rd Mer as considerable trade was anticipated at this crossing. The ferry was named "Tenfungrund Ferry," and was later named "Laird Ferry." Traffic on the ferry in 1910 was 3,000. The ferry was first operated by Simeon Postnikoff under contract with the Department of Public Works. The department paid a ferry man a bonus of ten dollars per month, and authorized him to collect in addition a tow schedule of tolls for ferriage. In 1912 to 1913 traffic on Petrofka Ferry was 7,589 and on Tenfungrund it was 18,130.

On June 6, 1910 a post office named Camberley was established on N E¼ - Sec 17 - Twp 44 - Rge 5 - W 3rd Mer the former site of Slaveuka Doukhobor village. The post office and general store were operated by Mrs Emily Hall until June 24, 1915 when Miss Maud M Knickerbocker was appointed postmistress. On May 31 1916 postal duties were taken over by Rue Knickerbocker In the

Prayer Home of the Independent Doukhobors Located in the Town of Plume Lake Saskatchewan Photo Author 1983

year 1918 the post office was relocated on S E/4 Sec 20 Twp 44 - Rge 5 - W 3rd Mer on the farm of George S Kanaloff who operated the post office until April 30 1921 when it was closed permanently

An era of travel and communication began in the year 1911 with the completion of a railway and telegraph line from Prince Albert serving an area from the west bank of the North Saskatchewan River to the agricultural communities of Shellbrook Parkside Leask Marcelin and Blaine Lake The railway and telegraph line was later extended to North Battleford connecting two vital points in the North West

Petrofka site formerly known as Petrovka because of its focal point in the history of the province was designated "An Historical Site" on June 14 1959 A cairn dedicated to the Pioneers of Slavic Origin of Doukhobor Faith near the area of the village was unveiled by the Department of Travel and Information, for the Province of Saskatchewan

The Petrofka Ferry site was selected for the construction of a bridge to span the North Saskatchewan River in 1955 by the Department of Highways and Transportation due to increased volume of traffic and transportation of commodities. (Two ferries were in operation in the 1950's). Construction of the bridge began in December 1960 The Petrofka Bridge," was officially opened to traffic on September 26 1962 — ending an era of ferry crossings in the area with the closing of Carlton Laird, and Petrofka Ferries

Trafungrund Ferry August 1912 later renamed Laird. Photo Courtesy, Saskatchewan Archives Board RA 571

AN

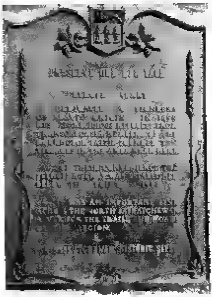
HISTORIC SITE

PETROFKA FERRY

Unveiling

SUNDAY JUNE 14, 1959
at 3:00 p.m. M.D.T.

TO COMMEMORATE MARKING THE SITE OF THE DOUKHOBOR FERRY ESTABLISHED IN 1901 AND LATER RE-NAMED THE PETROFKA FERRY



Bronze plaque mounted on the Cairn near the site of the first Doukhobor Village and the Petrofka Bridge. The plaque reads. Preserve our Heritage Petrofka Ferry Dedicated to Pioneers of Slavic origin In 1899 Russian religious refugees from Transcaucasia members of the Doukhobor faith, founded an village in the area near here For their convenience the Petrofka ferry was established below this point in 1901 It was an important line across the North Saskatchewan River for the trails and roads of the region. A Saskatchewan Historic Site 1959 Photo Author 1984.

PETROFKA FERRY

This site was already not on the basis of the natural beauty of its location on the west bank of the North Saskatchewan river [illegible] was one of the focal points in the history of this [illegible]. The events which had been the wayfaring place for thousands of Metis and the highways for the Indians and [illegible] finally became home to the crew and wagons of the agricultural settlers, and to the railroads which began to cut across the prairies in the late nineteenth century. A [illegible] from Regina in Prince Albert, completed in 1890, brought settlers of many origin into the Northern area just east of this site.

In 1892 a group of settlers arrived from Russia whose story is an epic even in the history of the colorful settlement of Saskatchewan. These were religious refugees, known as Doukhobors, a pioneering, pacifist sect who had maintained themselves in Russia for three hundred years against the most cruel pressures of a state church and an Imperial Czarist regime. When the present area was finally open for homestead entry they were among the first groups to take the initiative to come to Canada as converts. Count Leo Tolstoy, the active spokesman of the Quaker Society of Great Britain and the United States, and the co-operation of the Canadian Government. Among the ministry few hundred who came to Canada seven fifths found or were brought to this area and settled in the villages north and west of the site. This settlement was begun in August 1899.

The Doukhobors suffered the hardships and difficulties common to all our pioneers. Their rugged highships were lightened by three factors an outstanding ingenuity for hard work and shrewd planning [illegible] of mutual aid and co-operative arrangements, and the sympathetic help of outside friends. Among the friends were the Quakers already mentioned. The Society built a school house and supported a first teacher, among whom was a very remarkable woman, Miss Ella Martin from Hamilton, Ontario and Married J. Fast. The latter taught Russian. The remains of the stone foundations of the school can still be seen on top of the hill a bit to the south.

In 1905 the government of the North West Territories established a ferry to facilitate east-west communications. It was this ferry which the Doukhobor Ferry by later was called Petrofka. The former village in the immediate vicinity. The name means Peter's and was a common Russian designation in honour of the saint.

The ferry proved a great convenience not only to the Doukhobors, but also to other settlers who began pouring into this area after the turn of the century. Many of the pioneer homesites of all the people of this region are connected with the important ferry crossing Petrofka Ferry is therefore one of the many local points throughout our land Provides which is of special historical interest and significance

Dr. L. W. Simpson.

PROGRAMME

Chairman T. L. Hill *Deputy Minister Dept. Travel and Information.*

Opening Prayer (Our Father)

Introductions

Doukhobor Song

Address by Hon R. A. Walker, Q.C *Attorney General*

Song from Children's Choir

Address by Unveiling by F. G. Mahaffy Q.C.

Acceptance and Thanks by John Arkhipoff *President, Big ag Lake Doukhobor Society*

Doukhobor Spiritual Choir

Greetings from Canadian Association of Slavists by Dr. J. B. Rudnyckyj *President*

Traditional Community Song (We have concluded our Meeting")

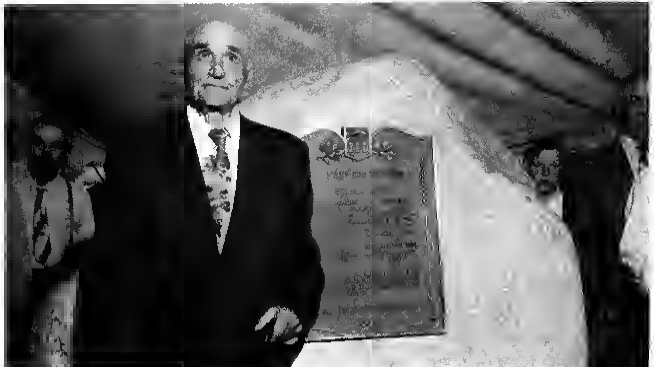
The Wingard Ferry established on the North Saskatchewan River in 1898 several miles downstream from the Fort Carlton Site is still maintained and operated as a river crossing in the 1990's to support the agricultural communities and facilitate tourism to the historical sites of Fort Carlton, Batoche and Duck Lake museum

The era of the courageous early settlers, on the untamed Western Frontier of the region has faded with the years but the evidence of their presence reflects on the landscape of modern time

The stately maple grove that sheltered the first trading post (Fort La Montee) in the region still stands its branches reaching toward the sky, with a whisper in the wind of the past

The sun rises and sets on the same plains and on the flowing river where once the three groups the Metis, the Mennonites, and the Doukhobors had hopes and dreams to build a way of life each within their respective beliefs

Those God fearing people who came to the prairies to build a small Utopia have all gone, but their succeeding generations remain with the legacy of their history marked only by focal points in the Carlton Region



Georg[illegible]-ecrha C[illegible]ff of Doukhobo[illegible] t each, a [illegible] mil ng beside the Cairn at the official unveiling ceremonies on June 14, 1959. He was the last surviving forefather wh o endured the oppression and seve e pla[illegible] a pe secution by the Russian state-controlled Church and the Czarist Regime, for his religious beliefs while observing the Commandment "Thou Shalt Not Kill." Deeply embedded lash scars along his back were evidence of the severe persecutions from which many had perished and those who survived preserved the spirit which guided them from tyranny to freedom in these exodus to the Canadian Prairie region. He passed away at he age of 92 years

Standing on the left by the Cairn is Semeon Zlotnoff on the right is Jack Porchuboff pioneers of the immigration era. Jack Porchuboff homesteaded River Lot 1, Twp. 45, Rge. 3 — W3rd Mer. which was the site of the French fur trading post Fort La Montee. Photo Courtesy Saskatchewan Archives Board, Saskatoon Star Phoenix Collection. S-SP # 5103 13.

Petrofka Bridge, open to traffic, September 26, 1962. Photo Author

Cairn overlooking the North Saskatchewan River. West Bank, near the site of the first Doukhobor Village and the Petrofka Ferry. Cairn dedicated by the Province of Saskatchewan. Photo Author

Windward Ferry on the North Saskatchewan River established 1898. From an oil painting by Agatha Stapnikoff 1964

Prairie Town in the Carlton region. From an oil painting by Agatha Stuptchoff 1982

Conclusion

In conclusion, as we reflect on our heritage and history may we pause for a brief moment to give tribute to the courage and endurance of those who made this history unfold. The Carlton Region with prime agricultural land and diversified farming, is within the boundaries of the Province of Saskatchewan.

Saskatchewan in the beginning was often referred to as a poor 'Country Cousin' among its neighboring provinces. With agriculture, an abundance of natural resources, and its people Saskatchewan is now in the forefront. The province could well boast of the sons and daughters who stemmed from those pioneers.

The efforts, the daily privations, the trials, and the triumphs of the early settlers who paved the way for others were not in vain.

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Building
Our Future

HISTORICAL SAGA OF THE CARLTON REGION, 1797 - 1920

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by

George
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emorating Saskatchewan's Heritage
1905 - 1985

I dedicate this book to my children, Kenneth, Marlene, and Robert, and their families, and to all generations who stemmed from courageous settlers of the Western Frontier

Cover Design by,
Agatha Stupnikoff
Titled,
"SALUTE TO THE NEW HORIZONS"

Courageous settlers proceeding westward to a land, where they had hopes and dreams of living a life-style within their beliefs

HISTORICAL SAGA OF THE CARLTON REGION 1797 - 1920

Researched, Compiled and Published
by Sam George Stupnikoff

Commemorating Saskatchewan's Heritage
1905 – 1985

Printed by Modern Press
Saskatoon

HISTORICAL SAGA OF THE CARLTON REGION
1797 1920
By Sam G Stupnikoff Blaine Lake Saskatchewan

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Foreword and Acknowledgements

The historical saga of the Carlton Region is based on events and the story of Canadian ethnic minorities, the Metis, the Mennonites and the Doukhobors. The perseverance of each individual group and the hardships encountered in their efforts to attain a lifestyle and maintain their culture and communities on the untamed Western Frontier is gradually becoming a legend. The story of the region's past may read like a novel, but the highlights of its history must be recorded and maintained for succeeding generations.

Being of a background of Doukhobor Faith, my wife and I are direct descendents of grandparents and parents who migrated to Canada with the Doukhobor contingent, and settled in the Prince Albert Doukhobor Reserve in 1899. With the dissolution of the Prince Albert Doukhobor Reserve in 1907, the Stupnikoff and Postnikoff families adhered to the independence of individual farming. While maintaining the family farm and also farming River Lots 4 and 6 as of the 1870 surveys in Township (Twp.) 44 – Range (Rge.) 5 West (W) of 3rd Meridian (Mer.), it has been my lifelong aspiration to record the region's history as it unfolded. The information is based on the reminiscence of our predecessors and on the availability of material relevant to an area of the province that is steeped in history and a part of the Great North West.

The most contentious area to a researcher is the accessibility of material. The sources of material do not necessarily await the researcher at archives, libraries, nor will field work and personal interviews bring all the desired information with ease. The response and co-operation of archival personnel for records that provided invaluable information, librarians for acquiring various publications, and individuals for personal interviews are acknowledged and greatly appreciated.

I would like to express thanks to the typist for doing the enormous amount of work involved in the typing of my manuscript.

Sincere appreciation is acknowledged to individuals who reviewed the manuscript and offered advice on inconsistencies in various areas of the draft, and to the Saskatchewan Government, Department of Culture and Recreation for financial assistance towards research and manuscript preparation.

To my family, I am grateful for the support and encouragement offered to me in the preparation of this project. To my wife, Agatha, who spent endless hours in the art work, recreating scenes of the past to be used in support of this history, I would like to say "thank you."

The topics and the highlights of this unfolding history of the Carlton Region are entirely my own selections. The information is factual to the best of my knowledge and to the accuracy of the sources identified herein.

Preface

In the excited rush and confusion of our everyday lives, we have little or no time to reflect on our natural heritage and history of the early settlers. The era of the pioneers is a memorable one. Many came penniless with hope, aspiration and determination. They came into the untamed wilderness by the will of their Creator, to carve a lifestyle and change natural landscapes into distinctive cultural landscapes in the settlement of the Canadian West.

The Carlton Region has characteristics of historical significance as did many areas of the Western Plains, a hinterland of the past, a geographical area located West of the Third Principal Meridian, primarily of Twps 41–48 Rgs 1–7, W 3rd Mer. with the North Saskatchewan River flowing through from the south west portion of the region Twp 44 – Rge 7 – W 3rd Mer to the north east of the region of Twp 48 – Rge 1 – W 3rd Mer.

The inhabitants of the Western Frontier were Indians of the Plains who identified themselves by tribal names Cree, Blackfoot, Gros Ventres, Chippewa, Sioux, etc. They were non-agricultural people who hunted and fished for the necessities of their livelihood: food, clothing and habitat. They hunted with stone tipped weapons and butchered with stone and bone tools. The weaponry and tools were a product of their own skillfulness. Many artifacts of their weapons and tools have been found in the region, primarily in the area surrounding Fort La Montee that was situated on the west bank of the North Saskatchewan River, at the base of River Lot 1 – Twp 45 – Rge 5 – W 3rd Mer., which is now within the boundaries of the Rural Municipality of Blaine Lake 434.

The Western Plains were rich with fur bearing animals and fowl of different species. Generations of Indian tribes that lived in areas, slowly developed, over the years, a kind of a road system of foot worn paths that followed streams and animal migratory routes. Some of these foot trodden paths became the first overland routes of the white man. The Cree Indians were predominantly the inhabitants of the Carlton Region prior to the presence of the fur traders explorers, missionaries, surveyors, and early settlers. The white man's presence drastically changed the Indian's way of life.

The appearance of the fur traders on the Saskatchewan River system was by the North West Fur Trading Company, a Company that monopolized the fur trade from 1768 to 1770.

The Hudson's Bay Company built its first inland post on the North Saskatchewan River at Cumberland House in 1774.

As the fur trade moved West up the river, the Carlton Region became an area of focal activity with the construction of Fort La Montee in 1797 by the North West Trading Company on the west bank of the river. The Hudson's Bay Company also came further west and built a fort on the opposite side of the river some 3 miles downstream which was known as Carlton House in 1810.

Fort La Montée was constructed by the

French fur traders while Carlton House was constructed by the British fur traders The forts were in constant rivalry with each other and at times there was confrontation between the two forts The personnel of each fort had to contend with constant harassment by Indian tribes

Realizing that the personnel of the two forts was not large enough to maintain constant vigil of prevailing conditions, the two forts amalgamated in 1820

The first overland route was established in 1840 known as the Carlton Trail, followed by the appearance of steam navigation on the river system in 1870

The Prince Albert Settlement was founded by Reverend James Nisbet a Presbyterian Minister in 1866 The settlement was situated on the south bank of the North Saskatchewan River beginning east of the Third Principal Meridian in Twp 48 – Rge 28 The Prince Albert Settlement was a vital point in the settlement of the Carlton region from 1870 to 1900

The area known as Ruperts Land, west of the Manitoba border, was sold to the Canadian Government in 1870 by the Hudson's Bay Company This area then became a part of the Territories

The 1870s saw the influx of group settlements into the Carlton Region The first settlements were by displaced Metis from the Winnipeg area, who settled on agricultural land along the river system The Metis were granted a unique subdivision of land known as River Lots The River Lots were a bloc of land equally divided into parcels, each parcel measuring 1/8 of a mile in width and 2 miles in length thereabout bordered by the river as a waterfront Each Lot contained 160 acres more or less and each Lot was numerically identified in each respective Township and Range

This provided the Metis Settlements access to the river as a source of water supply and a travel route, and created a community of being close to their neighbors The Metis farmers grew corn and root vegetables potatoes turnips, and carrots, and also hunted and fished for their livelihood

The Carlton Settlement along the east and west banks of the North Saskatchewan River consisted of some 28 River Lots Sixteen of these Lots were along the west bank of the river in Twps 44-45 – Rge 5 – W 3rd Mer – now in the Rural Municipality of Blaine Lake 434 They are still maintained as of the survey of 1870, and are farmed in the 1980s in that same manner

The St Laurent Settlement was of a much larger concentration along the east and west banks of the south branch of the Saskatchewan River in Twps 41-45 – Rge. 48 – W 3rd Mer ; of some 208 Lots in the Rural Municipalities of Duck Lake 463, Rosthern 403, St Louis 431 and Wakaw 402

In 1895 the Metis Settlements were dispersed by political entity with the North West Rebellion, as this special survey of land did not conform with the official land surveys of the Canadian Government

The completion of a railway line in 1890, by the Qu'Appelle, Long Lake Saskatchewan Railway Company from Regina extended north to Saskatoon and on to Prince Albert servicing the areas of Duck Lake and Rosthern

The 1890 era brought two groups of settlers into the Carlton Region they were the "Old Colony" Mennonites and people of Doukhobor Faith The Canadian Government at the time was seeking immigrants to settle the Western Prairies These two groups of people lived adjacently in Czarist Russia Their religious Faith as conscientious objectors as well as their lifestyle had a broad similarity

These two groups were under oppression and severe persecution by the Czarist Regime for refusing to serve in the militia They were willing to migrate to a land free of oppression where there would be no government interference in their religious and co-operative way of life They were people of the soil willing to endure the hardships of the open prairie Other

settlers chose to settle in woodlands and fertile river bottoms and shunned open prairies

The two groups were large enough in number to be recognized by the Canadian government. The government made available large tracts of land for settlement in the Prairie Region similar to the terrain these people had occupied in Russia, and where each group in its own respective way could adapt a community lifestyle

They were granted special concessions which were enacted by Order in Council in 1874, prior to their migration. No 1, the "Militia Act" provided unconditional exemption from the militia No 2 the "Hamlet Act," allowed the building of villages, to maintain their communities in a lifestyle to which they were adapted to

The Mennonites preceded the Doukhobors into the Carlton Region in 1895 They settled "en bloc" on land on the Rosthern Mennonite Reserve, bordered by the east bank of the North Saskatchewan River which is now a part of the Rural Municipality of Rosthern 403. The Doukhobors settled in the Carlton Region in 1899 on the Prince Albert Doukhobor Reserve, bordered by the west bank of the North Saskatchewan River which is now a part of the Rural Municipality of Blaine Lake 434

Strangely enough the two groups with a relationship of beliefs lifestyle, migration pattern, and concessions granted, lived independently of each other, and maintained no association

Ferries were established along the river in the region to facilitate the settlers of the area Carlton, Petrofka and Teifungrund which was later known as 'Laird Ferry'

The region was also being occupied by general settlement surrounding the reserved land with the arrival of settlers of various origins British, French, Ukrainian Scandinavian, etc

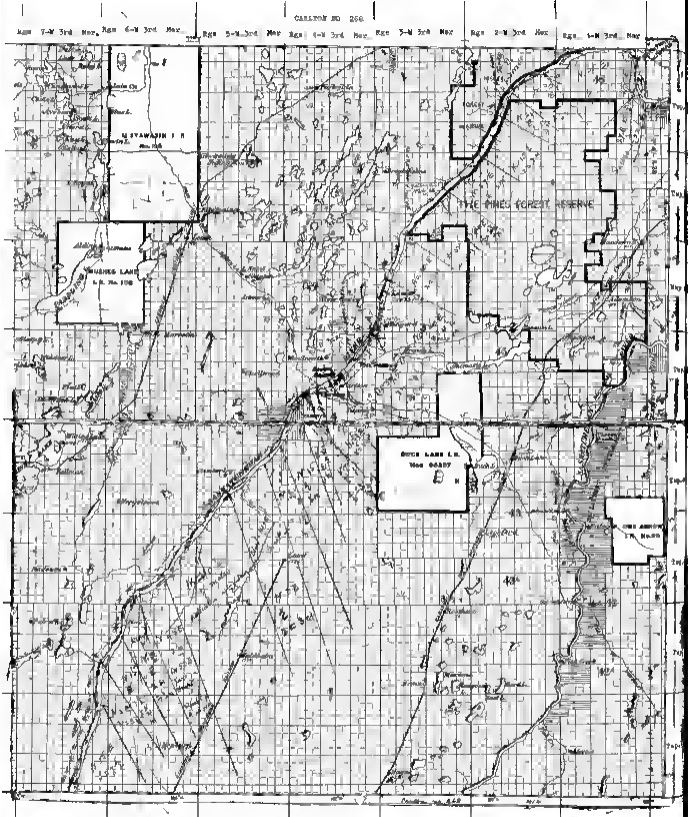
With the occupation of homestead land by white settlers, the Indians slowly withdrew to their designated reserves the "One Arrow' Indian Reserve No 95, 'Okemasis and Beardy' Indian Reserves Nos 96 and 97, 'Muskeg Lake" Indian Reserve No 102, "Mistawasis" Indian Reserve No 103 and "Young Chippewayan" Reserve No 107.

Honoring Treaty No 6 the Commissioners of the Crown, in September 1876 in the Carlton Region and at Fort Pitt, negotiated Treaty No 6, with the Cree, who thereby surrendered their rights to 120,000 square miles

The Treaty allayed unrest amongst the Indians and assisted the peaceful settlment of this Region

The dissolution of the Mennonite and Doukhobor Reserves in the Carlton Region, the removal of ferries (Carlton, Petrofka, and Laird), have all become a part of Saskatchewan's early history Several cairns dotting landscapes at focal points, and a small historical museum near the Rectory at Batoche also the reconstruction of Fort Carlton as a historical park, are the only remaining evidence of the past

There is an old Indian saying "One day the Buffalo will return and again roam the Western Plains"



Carlton Region map showing Carlton River Lots St Laurent River Lots Indian Reserves Courtesy Saskatchewan Archives Board

Region's First Inhabitants

The first inhabitants of the Western Frontier lived in harmony with nature. Through time these people became known as Indians. Although various people inhabitated the Western Frontier, the fertile plains of Central Saskatchewan and Alberta were inhabited by Plains, Wood, Swampy and Willow Cree peoples. Their unique way of life was enriched by their skills of hunting and fishing for sustenance of their livelihood. Their hunting largely depended on the vast buffalo herds, along with deer, moose, fowl, and fur bearing animals, for food, clothing, shelter, tools and weapons.

As the white settlers continued to fill the western plains, the Indians came to realize their way of life, their freedom and their survival was being challenged.

Cree Indians (Carlton Region). Photo Courtesy Saskatchewan Archives Board S # 6797

The Indian peoples found it difficult to provide for their families, with the disappearance of the buffalo herds. The wholesale slaughter of the buffalo by the white man resulted in the near extinction of the herds that roamed the plains.

Sickness had brought hardships to the Indian people. Small pox, red measles, scarlet fever, typhoid, influenza and venereal disease, ravaged entire nations. This antecedent was not present among Indian people before the arrival of the white man.

The Government of Canada had acquired control of the North West Territories from the Hudson's Bay Company in 1869.

Cree Chiefs representing the district between Fort Carlton and Fort Edmonton met with Mr. W. J. Christie in April 1871. Christie, a representative of the Hudson's Bay Company, was in charge of a rapidly increasing settlement in the Saskatchewan district. The land question with the new government was not yet clarified, and as a result the Indians opposed the running of speaking wires "telegraph lines," the making of roads and the establishment of white settlements in their country. They asked that both the bringing of spirits into the country and the use of poison in the destruction of animal life be prohibited. They were concerned for what the coming

Buffalo of the Western Plains photographed at Elk Island Park along Yellowhead Highway No. 16 West. Province of Alberta. Photo Author 1983.

years would bring to their children and to the future generations of Indians for a new life was dawning upon them.

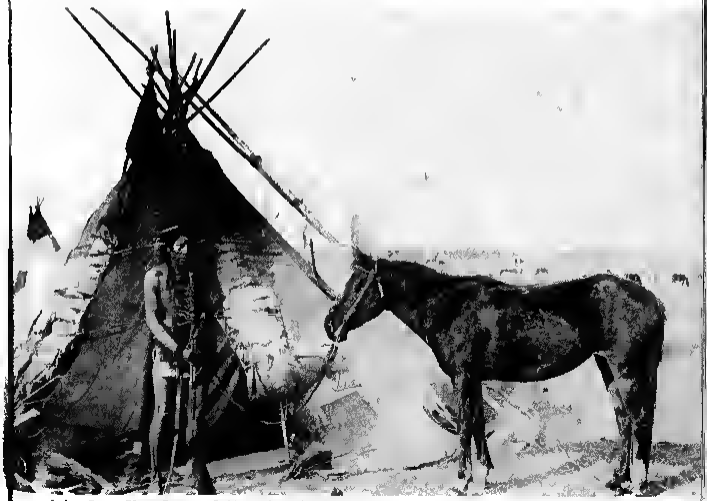
Mr Christie assured the Chiefs that he would forward the message of the Crees to His Excellency Lieutenant Governor Archibald, Her Majesty's representative at Fort Garry, Red River Settlement of their concerns.

In response to the message of the Chiefs of the Cree nations, Her Majesty the Queen, the Great White Mother Queen of Great Britain and Ireland, notified and informed the said Indians that it was Her desire to open that tract of country for settlement, or for any other suchpurpose to meet the needs of Her Majesty and the Government of Canada.

Dealing with such situations, the Government of Canada, in the name of the Queen made treaties with the Indian people. By 1875, Treaties 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5 were concluded. The Government of Canada had acquired title to much of the land, part of Ontario, Manitoba, and southern Saskatchewan. The remaining area included the traditional lands of the plains tribes, through Central Saskatchewan and Alberta.

In the treaties, the government set aside reserves of land for Indians to live on. The government promised and agreed to provide the Indians with certain rights and goods, for a self supporting community.

In the alliance the Indian nations were required to freely and voluntarily relinquish their natural title, privileges, and rights in the specified territory, to the Government of the Dominion of Canada, the Queen and her successors forever, and



Indian Brave. Photo Courtesy Public Archives Canada. C33471

to pledge allegiance to the Crown and forever keep the peace

Eleven distinct treaties were concluded by the government with the Indian nations between 1871 and 1923 encompassing a geographic area of northern Ontario Manitoba Saskatchewan Alberta and parts of British Columbia Although the terms and conditions of the treaties that were agreed to were not of uniform nature, Treaties 1 2, 3, 4 and 5 were forerunners to Treaty No 6

In the spring of 1876 plans for Treaty Six were finalized Treaty negotiations were to take place at Fort Carlton and Fort Pitt

The appointed Commissioners were Honourable Alexander Morris Lieutenant Governor of the province of Manitoba, Honourable W. J. Christie, and the Honourable James McKay a member of the North West Council It was felt McKay being a Metis, could have some influence on the Indians Morris was previously involved in negotiations of Treaties 3, 4 and 5

Lieutenant Governor Morris accompanied by his commissioners and escorted by the North West Mounted Police on August 18, 1876 proceeded to the site chosen for treaty negotiations The site was some 1½ miles east of Carlton House, a Hudson s Bay fort situated on the east bank of the North Saskatchewan River

The Governor s tent was pitched on a piece of rising ground, some 400 yards from the Indian camp, containing about 2,000 Indians

Throughout the negotiations the Indians were addressed as ' the Red Children

Indian Encampment Treaty Day File Hills 1926 Photo Courtesy Saskatchewan Archives Board R A 14853

Indian Encampment near a Treaty Site Photo Courtesy Saskatchewan Archives Board S B 4698

of the Great White Mother the Queen." They were given the opportunity to express their concerns and put forth their requests, and were told of what the government was prepared to promise them. The Indians had little choice but to accept the terms offered. They knew that the land inevitably would be taken from them if they refused.

The Indians were to honor Treaty Six by surrendering their rights to 120,000 square miles of traditional Indian lands, now occupied by Crees and other Indian people. In return Her Majesty agreed to lay aside reserves of land for each band of Indians on the basis of 1 square mile per family of five. The reserves were to be surveyed by the government, for the benefit of the said Indians and were to be administered by Her Majesty's Government of the Dominion of Canada. In some cases the location of the reserves would be chosen by band leaders.

Indians who would commence cultivating the soil, would be provided the necessary hand tools for cultivating and reaping, one plough and two harrows for every three families, four oxen, one bull, six cows, one boar, and two sows for each band. Each Chief was given a set of carpenter's tools. Those bands that were planning to cultivate their land would be given enough wheat, barley, oats, and potatoes for planting, and one hand mill if there was sufficient grain to warrant the machine. This was to be given once only to encourage the practice of agriculture.

Each recognized Chief of an Indian band, would receive an annual salary of twenty-five dollars per annum, and each subordinate officer, not exceeding one in each band, would receive fifteen dollars

per annum each Chief would receive, once every three years, a suitable suit of clothing a suitable flag and medal Also one horse, harness, and wagon would be provided for each band Chief

An annual payment of five dollars would be made to every man, woman and child, inhabiting the reserves Fifteen hundred dollars would be granted annually, and divided in the treaty area for the purchase of ammunition and fishing nets

The Indians would have the rights to pursue their avocation of hunting and fishing throughout the surrendered territory, and would be exempt from regulations enforced by the Government of Canada from time to time

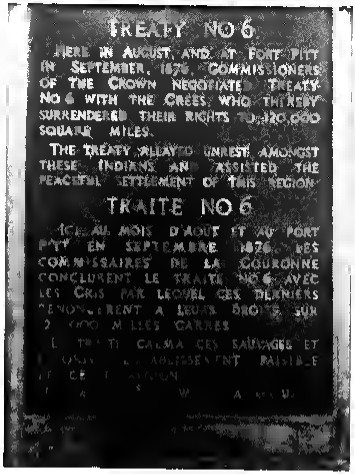
When the Indians settled on a reserve and had children to be taught, the Queen would provide and maintain a school if it was desired A medicine chest would be kept at the residence of each Indian Agent on a reserve for the use and benefit of the Indians at the discretion of the agent

No spirituous liquors would be allowed on the reserves, or to other Indians in the North West Territories. Laws would be enforced to prevent the influence of intoxicating liquors

The Indians would be exempt from military service Any Indians that would serve in the military on behalf of Canada would do so at their own choice

The Indians were to promise to abide by the laws in all respect, and to maintain peace between themselves and others of Her Majesty s subjects They would assist Her Majesty's Officers in bringing to justice any Indian offending the stipulations of the treaty, or violating the laws enforced by the country.

Cairn, marks the location of the signing of Treaty No 6 with the Cree Indians.


TREATY NO 6
HERE IN AUGUST, AND AT FORT PITT IN SEPTEMBER, 1876, COMMISSIONERS OF THE CROWN NEGOTIATED TREATY NO 6 WITH THE CREES, WHO THEREBY SURRENDERED THEIR RIGHTS TO 120,000 SQUARE MILES.
THE TREATY RELIEVED UNREST AMONGST THESE INDIANS AND ASSISTED THE PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT OF THIS REGION
TRAITE NO 6
ICI, AU MOIS D'AOUT ET AU FORT PITT EN SEPTEMBRE 1876, LES COMMISSAIRES DE LA COURONNE CONCLURENT LE TRAITE NO 6 AVEC LES CRIS PAR LEQUEL CES DERNIERS RENONCERENT A LEURS DROITS SUR 2 000 MILLES CARRES

Cairn location is on N E ¼ Sec 11 — Twp 44 — Reg 4 — W3rd Mer R M of Duck Lake 463 along Highway 212 to Fort Carlton Historic Park
Photo Author

On the fourth day of Treaty Six negotiations the Governor addressed the Chiefs and expressed the urgency of acceptance of the terms of the treaty The treaty would ensure the preservation of the Indian nationhood

Following his address the principal Chiefs rose and said they would accept the terms of the treaty

The negotiations at Carlton were concluded, with the signing of Treaty Six on August 23, 1876, by the Head Chiefs of the Plains and Wood Crees, Mist-ow-asis, and Ah-tuck ah-coop, and the remainder of the Chiefs and Councillors It was also signed by Lieutenant Governor Archibald and his Commissioners, Christie and McKay The treaty was then witnessed by all other Metis and Whites present at the negotiations

The Willow Crees and Chief Beardy, agreed to the terms of the treaty on August 28th These people had earlier objected to the spirit of the treaty, by opposing the surrender of the natural title to their traditional tribal lands They were of the opinion that a lend or lease agreement of their lands, would be of greater benefit for all Indian nations The number of these Indians was relatively small and were not in a position to offer much resistance Reluctantly, they signed the treaty

The Governor and the Commissioners then proceeded to Fort Pitt where treaty negotiations were concluded with the signing of Treaty Six by the Head Chief of the Crees, Chief Sweet Grass and the remainder of the Chiefs and Councillors on September 9, 1876

The duration of Treaty Six is, 'For as long as the sun shines, the grass grows and the river flows'

MAP (Treaty Territory)

Fort La Montée 1797–1820; Carlton House 1810–1856; Fort Carlton 1856–1885

When one stands on the second rise of the River Lot hills in Twp 44 Rge 5 W 3rd Mer overlooking nature's creation of the North Saskatchewan River flowing in a northeasterly direction, there comes into view a tall maple grove dividing River Lot 8 in Twp. 44 and River Lot 1 in Twp 45 Many have questioned the grove's unique location beginning from the edge of the rise of willow and cranberry flats, stretching westward for several hundred yards That is all that remains of a grove that once sheltered the first settlement of the white man called Fort La Montee

The French fur traders pushed westward by canoe up the North Saskatchewan River into the rich fur bearing

Maple Grove that once sheltered Fort La Montee Dividing River Lot 8 Twp 44 Rge 5 — W3rd Mer and River Lot 1 Twp 45 Rge 5 — W3rd Mer Photo Author

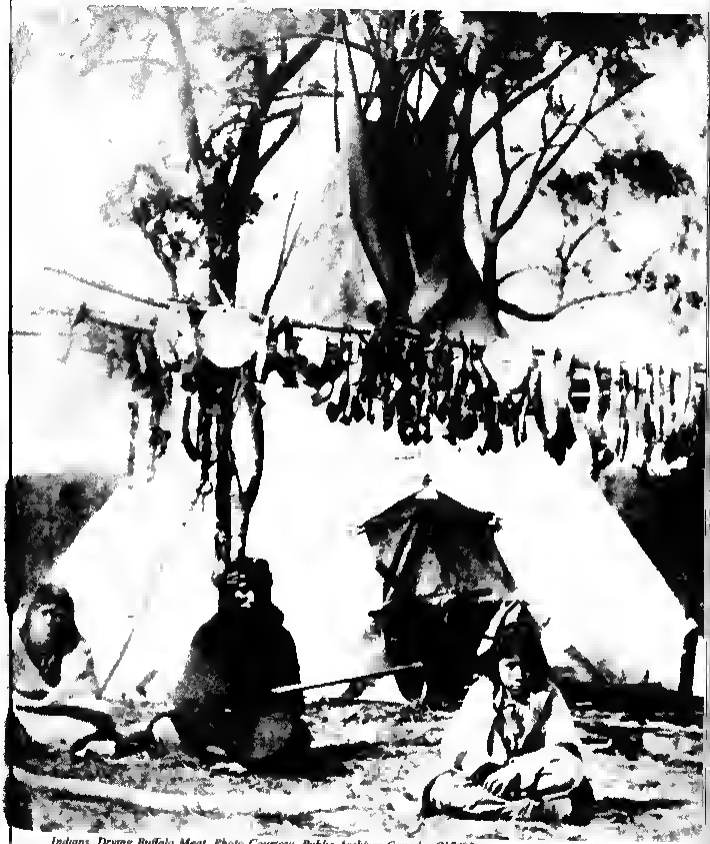
areas to trade with the Indians. Fort La Montee meaning stopping place, was constructed by the North West Trading Company in 1797. (The location of the fort site was River Lot 1 Twp 45 – Rge 5 – W 3rd Mer.) The population of the fort numbered one hundred and thirty, of which sixty were women and children. The fort was a stopping place for the fur traders who came by canoe they rented horses at the fort and proceeded further inland to trade with the Indians. This was also the first sign of agricultural appearance. corn was grown on the rich soil around the fort. The population of the fort largely depended on pemmican for sustenance of their livelihood supplied by the Indians.

In 1810 the Hudson's Bay Trading Company came westward and built a fort on the opposite side of the river some 3 miles downstream which was known as Carlton House. In 1856 Carlton House was renamed Fort Carlton, a Cree name (PA-HON-AN-IK), meaning watching place. Some three hundred Indians and whites were attached to these forts supplying deer meat buffalo meat and hide for pemmican, and furs for the traders.

> Pemmican was made by cutting buffalo meat into long thin strips then hung on scaffolds made of poles from poplar trees. The meat hung in the sun until dry, rolled into a bundle, and tied with tendon. It was placed into a large wooden bowl and pounded into powder. Berries were added to the powder and mixed with hot animal fat, then packed into sacks made from buffalo hide. This was pemmican, miraculous food of the prairie wilderness.

The forts were under constant danger of attack by the Indians. In 1820 the two forts amalgamated in a common cause against the Indians. Fort La Montee was dismantled and the materials were rafted down the river to Carlton House where more buildings were constructed.

Fort Carlton and the Carlton Trail leading to the Fort. 1883. Photo Courtesy Saskatchewan Archives Board S B 135



Indians Drying Buffalo Meat Photo Courtesy Public Archives Canada C17493

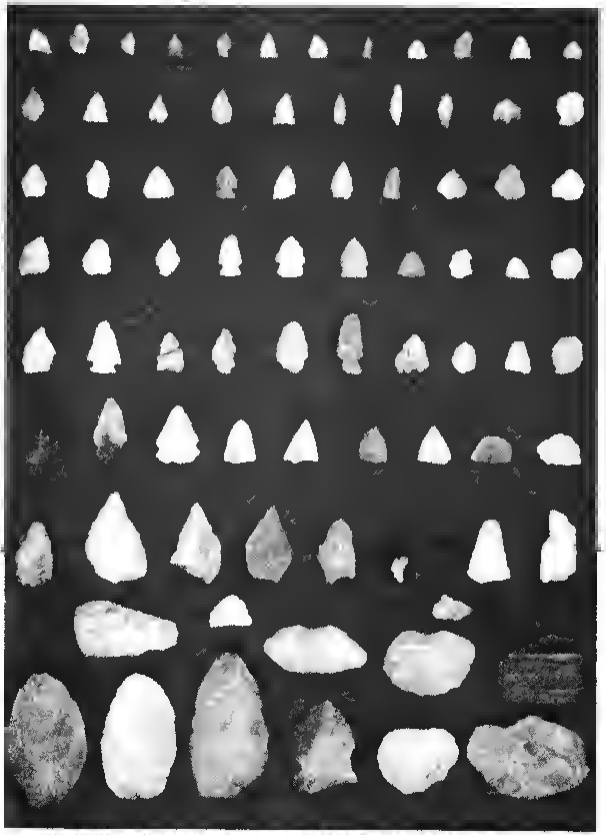
Pemmican bowl and pounder at the Historic Park of Fort Edmonton, Alberta. Photo Author

From the
Diary of Angus MacKay
Fort La Montee, October 12, 1929

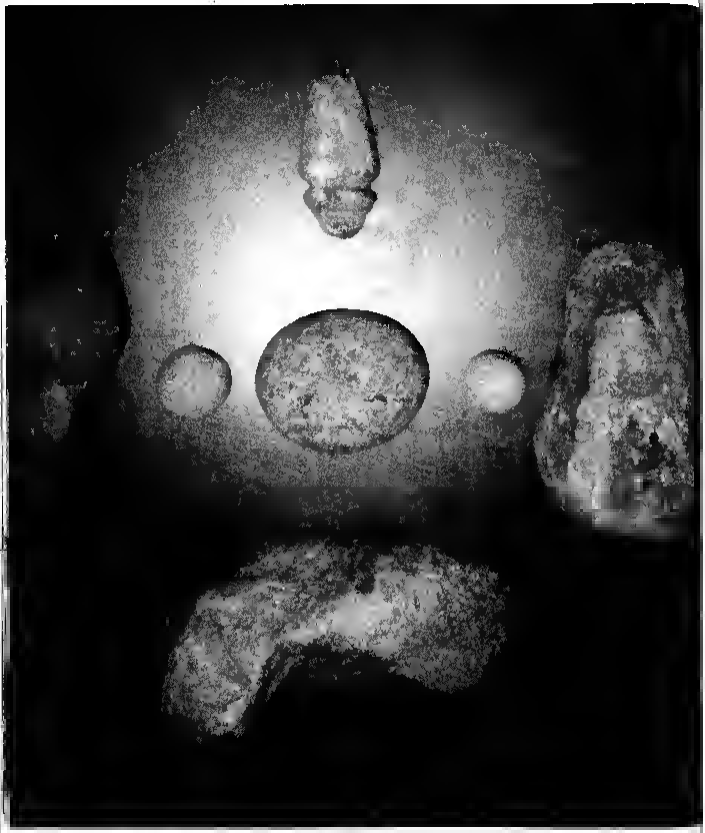
Angus Mackay President of the Historical Association of Prince Albert was accompanied by his brother Mr George Mackay of Wingard who knew the spot

We found that one Jack Perehudoff owned the land thereabouts with his permission drove through his fields to the outer lip of the river valley We noticed higher ground not brought under the plow, we crossed to it and soon found out it was the site of the fort, we had clear indications of the palisades in different places, there were at least ten cellars and many chimneys, the measurement of the fort was about one hundred and fifty feet by one hundred and fifty feet, it stood about two hundred feet from the mud flats of the river, where the river used to flow, now overgrown with willow and cranberry bush, the river now flows a considerable distance away

By the mid-nineteenth century Carlton House was named Fort Carlton. Fort Carlton had become a favorite stopping



A collection of Indian Artifacts by Agatha Stupnikoff found in the area of Fort La Montee



A collection of Indian Artifacts by Agatha Stupnikoff found in the area of Fort La Montee

View of the Carlton River Lots as of the 1870 survey along the West Bank of the North Saskatchewan River grain elevators in the background are located in the Village of Carlton from an oil painting by Agatha Stupnikoff

place for many famous travellers explorers, and missionaries who proceeded westward into the unknown terrain Pemmican was produced at the fort then shipped overland via the Green lake Trail to Ile a La-Crosse and other outlying posts

In the 1870s many Metis families who were displaced in the Winnipeg area moved to the Fort Carlton area and settled on land that was subdivided into River Lots on either side of the river This land division had a narrow river frontage which gave the tenant access to use of the river as a source of water supply and also as a route of travel The Metis families began cultivation of the soil and lived peacefully for several years When the Hudson's Bay Company sold the West to the Canadian Government uneasiness was created among the Metis families Signs of unrest became evident under the leadership of Gabriel Dumont

The first force of Royal North West

Mounted Police was stationed at Fort Carlton in 1884, twenty mounties accompanied by their Commander Superintendent L F N Crozier, arrived with their wives and children at Fort Carlton December 27, 1884 from Regina which they left December 13, 1884. Fort Carlton was mysteriously burnt to the ground on the night of March 27-28, 1885 and was not rebuilt. Its personnel was moved to Prince Albert.

Prince Albert Settlement 1862-1890

The area where the city of Prince Albert now stands, was nothing more than one of many Indian campgrounds along the North Saskatchewan River It was in June 1862, James Isbister, a trapper and interpreter for the Hudson's Bay Company, and his Indian wife settled on the south bank of the river, which later became the Prince Albert Settlement

The founder of the Prince Albert Settlement was Reverend James Nisbet, Presbyterian Minister from Ontario. He made his expedition into the wilderness of Ruperts Land for mission work amongst the Cree Indians. Reverend Nisbet and his party made their journey to Fort Carlton by Red River Cart, from Kildonan, Manitoba, arriving at Fort Carlton on July 17 1866 The Nisbet party left Fort Carlton July 25, by boat down the North Saskatchewan River They landed on the south bank of the river on July 26, at a point which is now Central Avenue

With the rich fertile soil, lush haystands, and an abundance of heavy timber stands, Nisbet was much impressed by the area His decision was to establish a mission farm and settlement by late fall of 1866 The Nisbet party built two houses

Nisbet named his new settlement Prince Albert in honor of the late Consort of Queen Victoria He also attempted to encourage the Cree Indians to settle around the mission farm

In 1872 a church was built in the settlement seating one hundred and twenty people

The Canadian Pacific Railway surveyors came down the North Saskatchewan to chart the river in 1872, for the purpose of steam navigation The first steam boat arrived at Fort Carlton in 1874

Nisbet and his wife left the Prince Albert Settlment in 1874 and returned to Ontario

In 1878 the Prince Albert Settlement was surveyed from the third principal meridian in an easterly direction, along the south bank of the river, a total of 82 River Lots

The era of the early settlement was to diminish, and a frontier town was at its beginning The population of the Prince Albert settlement in 1878 was approximately eight hundred and thirty one people

By 1880 Prince Albert prospered with various businesses including a brick plant flour mill and a saw mill Village buildings stretched for a considerable distance along the south bank of the river front

Emmanuel College opened in 1880 with classrooms, a library and a Warden's residence This was the pride of Prince Albert's population who believed this was to be the Queen City of the West. The College was the first to offer high school work, with the curriculum of mathematics, classical languages, and English It was attended by boys of various denominations and faiths College tuition fees were ten dollars per year, boarding facilities were also provided for the students

The agricultural community surrounding the Prince Albert settlement produced

Nisbet Church built by Reverend James Nisbet in the Prince Albert Settlement 1872 from an oil painting by Agatha Stupnikoff 1983

some 62 000 bushels of wheat in the fall of 1881, half of the total amount grown in the Territories

In 1882 the Canadian government opened a branch Land Office to serve the region, thus replacing Fort Carlton as headquarters for the Lower Saskatchewan District

The Wood Mountain and Qu'Appelle Railway Company was authorized to build a railroad from the United States border to Prince Albert in 1883 The construction of the railroad never came to reality

Excessive rains and a heavy frost in 1884 caused a total crop failure These two factors put the district in a more despeiate situation than any other part of the Territories and caused the downfall of Prince Albert and its future growth

Survey of the area west of the third principal meridian continued in 1883 with parties of surveyors dividing and subdividing the untamed prairie into equal parcels of land This identified each section and quarter section township and range numerically in preparation for settlement of agricultural land

Prince Albert Frontier Town. Photo Courtesy Saskatchewan Archives Board. No. S B 6751

Emmanuel College first Academic Institution in the Territories. It was located in the Prince Albert Settlement 1880 from an oil painting by Agatha Stupnikoff 1983

N W M P Detachment at Fort Carlton 1884 1885 Standing — S M Dann Constables Roberts Oliver Littlefield Doyle Corps Desbares Pringle Second Row — Constables Waite Manners Smith Doe Miller Supt Gagnon Constable Macpherson Third Row — Constables Flemming Cook Dog Wilmot Carter Photo Courtesy Saskatchewan Archives Board R A 8721

Prince Albert 1884 Photo Courtesy Provincial Archives of Alberta B2362

Through the winter of 1884–1885 the land issue in the Batoche and Fort Carlton region remained unresolved. The Metis together with Louis Riel failed to obtain sympathy from the Canadian government, concerning the Metis land claims. The government survey did not conform with the special survey of land known as the River Lots.

A Cree Indian band and a band of Sioux had declared themselves on the Metis side.

The Prince Albert settlement of about one thousand people with its stores and warehouses was vulnerable to attack by the Metis for much needed supplies. A column of North West Mounted Police was dispatched from Regina on March 18, arriving at the Prince Albert settlement on March 24, deterring a possible attack by a Sioux Indian Band.

During the Metis unrest at Batoche, Fort Carlton always susceptible to attack was mysteriously burnt to the ground on the night of March 27–28. This forced Commissioner A. G. Irvine, Superintendent Crozier and his force of Royal North West Mounted Police to retreat to Prince Albert, where they awaited military re-inforcements, to suppress the Metis uprising.

The victory at Batoche by the Canadian Militia in May 1885, suppressed the Metis, and the Prince Albert settlement gradually returned to normal activity.

A railroad was being built from Regina through Saskatoon to Prince Albert. The first train arrived in Prince Albert on September 4, 1890. From this time river transportation slowly diminished. The beginning of a new era became evident with the influx of settlers into the untamed agricultural region.

Today the city of Prince Albert, located in the heart of the Nisbet Provincial Forest along the North Saskatchewan River, has a population of about thirty-four thousand in the mid-1980s and may be identified as the gateway to the North.

The City's unique location attracts tourists to the northern resort areas, while the fresh water lakes create a fisherman's paradise.

The residents of Prince Albert host an annual event for several days each February known as "The Prince Albert Winter Festival," commemorating the era of the fur traders and the pioneers.

Carlton Trail 1840–1880

The white man's first route of intrusion into the Western Plains was made by canoe up the rivers which flowed in an easterly direction. Present day travel on the modern highways of our province and our nation is in great contrast to transportation by canoe on the river or by the Red River Cart along the Carlton Trail. As we motor into our neighboring province of Alberta via Trans-Canada to the Banff highway and approach the Eisenhower junction, we swing in a south and west direction on Highway 93. Driving this route we approach an area that is a mystery of geographical creation, an information board with a legend. The

Continental Divide Photo Author

Duck Lake Regional Historical Museum in the Town of Duck Lake is located in a large brick building that was constructed in 1914 as a Protestant Separate School Photo Author

"Continental Divide" is a point on the continent where the rivers originate and flow in opposite directions, west to the Pacific Ocean and east to Lake Winnipeg This is the beginning of the Saskatchewan River (meaning Rapid River) from Rocky Mountain House (David Thompson Country) flowing south and east through the provinces of Alberta and Saskatchewan merging with the south branch east of Prince Albert, and draining into Lake Winnipeg, a distance of some 1,205 miles

The Carlton Trail was the first main overland route before the coming of the transcontinental railway It bore much of the same relationship to Saskatchewan as did the Oregon Trail to the Pacific North West Region of the United States The Carlton Trail originated in 1840 following many trails of the Indian fur trader and explorer beginning on Portage Avenue in Winnipeg connecting Fort Garry Portage La Prairie Fort Elice, and Fort Qu'Appelle, crossing the south branch of the Saskatchewan River at Batoche on to Fort Carlton then, crossing the North Saskatchewan River at South West (S W) ¼ Section (Sec) 16 – Twp 45 – Rge 4 – W 3rd Mer , winding past wooded areas and low marshlands in a south and west direction through Twp 45 just north of the present site of the town of Blaine Lake, proceeding westward north of Red-

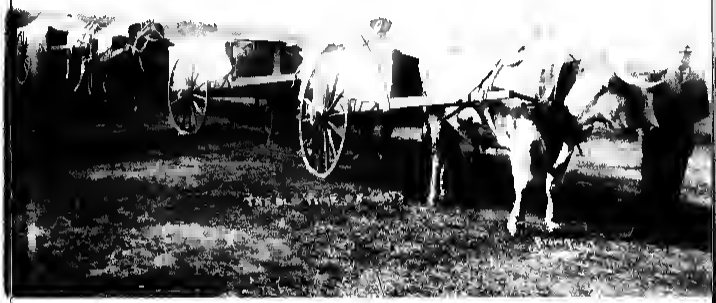
This was the busiest section
of the great overland route linking
Fort Garry with Edmonton House during
the fur trade era. A fast cart train
would make the 900 mile trip in six
weeks. The trail played a vital role
in the fur trading, freighting, hunting and
pioneering life of the north west until
after 1900. Many famous travellers
and explorers such as
and Dr Cheadle Lt Butler
Sandford Fleming and the
Forty years passed before seeking
or leaving the friendly hospitality
of Fort Carlton 16 miles north
The Battle of Duck Lake occurred on
the trail about three miles north
west of here on March 26, 1885.
Part of the trail is still used in the
Okemasis Indian Reserve.

Information Board with a legend, The Carlton Trail located adjacent to the Duck Lake Regional Historical Museum Town of Duck Lake Saskatchewan. Photo Author

Preserve Our Heritage

The Carlton Trail once passed this spot. This was the busiest section of the great overland route linking Fort Garry with Edmonton House during the fur trade era. A fast cart train would make the 900 mile trip in six weeks. The trail played a vital role in the fur trading, freighting, hunting and pioneering life of the northwest until after 1900. Many famous travellers and explorers such as Sir George Simpson, Capt. Palliser, Lord Milton and Dr. Cheadle, Lt. Butler, Sandford Fleming and the "Overlanders" passed here, seeking or leaving the friendly hospitality of Fort Carlton 16 miles northwest. The Battle of Duck Lake occurred on the trail about three miles northwest of here on March 26, 1885. Part of the trail is still used in the Okemasis Indian Reserve.

Carlton Trail leading to Carlton House 1871 Photo Courtesy Public Archives Canada. C16426.



Ox train, "Red River Carts". Photo Courtesy, Provincial Archives of Alberta. #5632.

berry [illegible] bypassing Fort Pitt[illegible] to the north, on to Fort Pitt, and ending at Fort Edmonton

The principal vehicle used on the Carlton Trail was the Red River Cart. This was a two-wheeled vehicle made of wood. No metal was used in its construction. Shaganappi (Green Buffalo hide) was used to some extent to bind its parts together. The cart had a pair of shafts between which an ox or a pony was placed to pull the cart along. The amount of supplies that could be hauled in one cart was 1/2 ton. The carts travelled in convoy with as many as fifty carts stretched out in single file. When driving over wet terrain, they did not track one behind another for fear of the ruts deepening.

The distance covered in a day's travel under average conditions was approximately 20 miles. Crossing the South and North Saskatchewan Rivers was by scow (a large flat bottom boat which was floated upstream for a ways, then paddled across to an approximate landing site). Crossings were hazardous during times of high water and swift currents of the rivers. Many hardships were encountered along the trail, and fear of attack by the Indians was a constant threat.

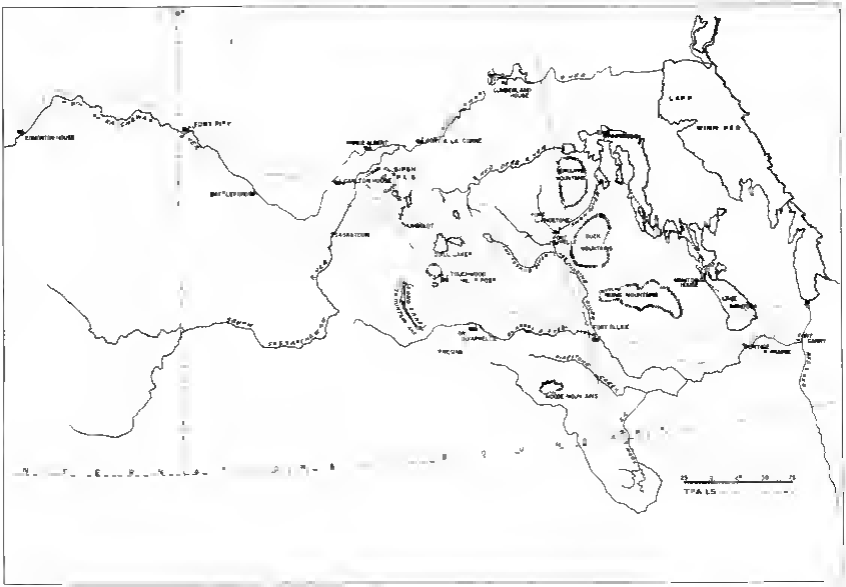
The Carlton Trail gave birth to many inland branch trails across the Western Plains. A branch trail in a north west direction from the Carlton crossing that was used by the Hudson's Bay Company to the far north was known as the Green Lake Trail. To many of the area it is

Loading of a Scow on the North Saskatchewan River Photo Courtesy Provincial Archives of Alberta B5626.

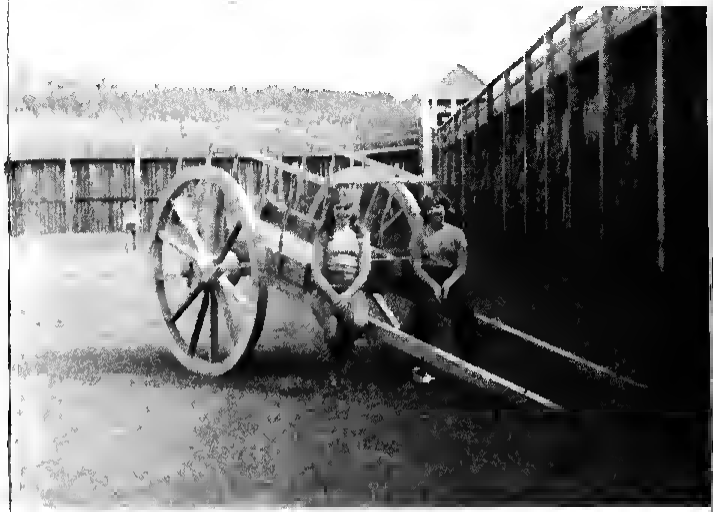
Rafting on the North Saskatchewan River Photo Courtesy Provincial Archives of Alberta. B9941

Dog sled on the winter trail Photo Courtesy Provincial Archives of Alberta. B5731

Dog Sled in the compound of Fort Carlton Historic Park This type of a sled was used on the winter trails Carlton Trail and trails to outlying posts in the north etc Photo Author



TRAIL MAP Based on a map prepared by the Historic Sites Division of the Saskatchewan Government



Red River Cart within the compound of the Historic Park of Fort Carlton. Seated on the shafts of the Cart are tourists left Shauna Dawne Emerson Edmonton Alberta. Right Lisa Susan Zmud Saskatoon Saskatchewan. Photo Author

known as the Snake Plain Trail. Travel on the trail during the winter was not extensive mostly by dog sled. When the steam boats made their appearance on the Saskatchewan River, the use of the trail slowly diminished.

Steam Boats (Stern Wheelers) on the Saskatchewan 1870–1911

The Hudson's Bay Company, from the opening of its first inland post from the Bay (Cumberland House) in 1774, depended on canoes and later on York boats to transport trade goods and furs out of the vast hinterland.

The York boat (a large boat which was paddled up and down the river by recruits of men from the Hudson's Bay Company) was used for transportation before steam boats came into existence.

Early in the 1870s the Hudson's Bay Company introduced steam navigation on the Saskatchewan River. The first boat was unnamed. It was fully loaded with cargo and was wrecked on the rapids of the river on its maiden voyage. It was soon replaced by the Northcote. A second boat named Lily was assembled above Grand Rapids in 1877. Five years later more boats were added. "Manitoba," "Northwest," "Marquis," etc.

York Boats under sail. Photo Courtesy Glenbow Archives, Calgary, Alberta. NA 4201-1

The first York Boats went into service of the Hudson's Bay Company in 1794 They were the biggest freight carrier on the Athabasca Slave and McKenzie Rivers capable of carrying 4 tons in addition to a crew of eight.
Each boat was provided with one large sail. oars. and ropes with harness for portaging and tracking.
The last Boat went into service with the Hudson's Bay Company in 1923 Thus being part of the river scene for almost 150 years

York Boat on the bank of the North Saskatchewan River at the Historic Park of Fort Edmonton, Alberta. Photo Author

En route westward from Grand Rapids a steam boat would dock at fur trading posts and new farm settlements along the river: The Pas, Cumberland House, Prince Albert, Fort Carlton, Fort Battleford, Fort Pitt, and finally dock in Fort Edmonton. The boats brought supplies, traders, explorers missionaries surveyors, early settlers, and farm machinery. The trip upward bound took two weeks to cover a distance of some 940 miles. A steam boat fully loaded could transport as much cargo to the forts on one trip, as could five hundred carts down the trail in one season.

Transportation by steam boat rapidly increased the movement of goods as compared to the overland route. Thus transportation by water lessened the hardships of transportation of the overland route. This was the beginning of a new era. River navigation was a problem during times of low water levels. High water levels in the spring and mid-summer provided the best navigation systems. Water levels rose as much as 26 feet above normal which brought the water out to the rim of the river hills.

In June 1886 the Northwest left Grand Rapids with a cargo of 250 tons. Fifty tons were landed at Carlton, 15 tons at Battleford, 40 tons at Fort Pitt, 40 tons at

Stern Wheeler on the North Saskatchewan River—from an oil painting by Agatha Stupnikoff

Victoria and 100 tons at Edmonton Cargoes consisted of flour lumber shingles, farm machinery merchant goods beer and passengers A cabin fare to Edmonton was fifty four dollars, and only thirty four dollars if you slept on the deck The meals were fifty cents

The early settlers of the Carlton Region depended largely on steam boat navigation for supplies and goods These were unloaded at Carlton The early settlers who made entry on land near the river still recall the era of the steam boats as they navigated up and down the river

The last of the steam boats operating out of Prince Albert in the last two decades of the twentieth century were "Alberta," "George V," "Saskatchewan" and "Marquis" The Marquis was later beached in Prince Albert ending an era of steam navigation on the Saskatchewan River

Hudson's Bay Steamer "Graham" unloading supplies at Fort Edmonton Photo Courtesy Provincial Archives of Alberta B2900.

Side Wheeler on the North Saskatchewan River Photo Courtesy Provincial Archives of Alberta B9219

Fort Edmonton. Photo Courtesy Hudson's Bay Company Winnipeg Manitoba P.76

Surveyors 1857-1904

In the daily operation of their individual enterprise, the agricultural people of the prairies seldom pause to contemplate the origination of the numerical identification of each section or quarter section of prairie land they occupy. Courageous efforts and sacrifices were made by parties of men, the explorers and the surveyors, who brought delicate survey instruments into the prairie region to explore, divide, and subdivide the prairies into equal parcels of land over terrain, challenging and untamed.

An expedition in October 1857 headed by Thomas Blakiston, brought the first survey instruments by York boat to Carlton House. This expedition also charted the Saskatchewan River.

The Dominion of Canada was a very young nation in 1870 when the gigantic area of Ruperts Land, previously held by the Hudson's Bay Company, was acquired. To insure Canadian ownership of this territory, it was essential to attract settlers. Subdivision of land was a necessary prerequisite to homesteading and railway building.

Survey work had started in 1869 in Manitoba under J. S. Dennis. Prior to 1871 only a small area centred on the Red River Settlement had been surveyed. The Dominion government had unfortunately not consulted the Metis. The misunderstandings which arose were the basic cause of insurrection known as the Red River Disturbance of 1869-1870 and the North West Rebellion of 1885, which was to delay the surveying of the West.

The Manual of Surveys was issued in 1871. John S. Dennis was appointed Surveyor General of Dominion Lands, as he was largely responsible for the system of Manual Surveys.

The year 1871 also saw the first thirteen parties of surveyors go out to begin the comparable survey task. Just north of the Assiniboine River on the prime meridian, the surveyors were to erect the first official monument.

The surveyor was sent to do field work with traditional instruments of the time: the transit, theodolite, the steel band chain (surveyor's chain, 66 feet in length), the compass, the chronometer, etc.

In 1882 survey parties left Winnipeg to begin the survey of the prairie region. The peak of activity was reached in 1883, a key time in the history of the survey.

The Dominion Lands survey system was a uniform plan. Without question it owed much to the system in use in the United States.

The first phase of survey was to divide the area into townships of 6 miles square, the second phase of the survey divided each township into 36 sections, and the third phase divided the sections into quarter sections of 160 acres. Townships were numbered northward from a base line on the 48th parallel, ranges of townships were numbered east and west from the principal meridian, known as the Winnipeg Meridian. A fixed road allowance of 1 50 chains in width was provided on all sides of the sections. This was the basic system, and only minor changes were made later in the general pattern.

The first strip of townships lying east

Sandford Fleming expedition surveying for the original C P R route Saskatchewan River 1873 Photo Courtesy Saskatchewan Archives Board. R .B 1448.

Survey Crew Photo Courtesy Glenbow Archives Alberta Institute NC — 22 27

and west on the international boundary was referred to as 'Township number one'. Each successive strip to the north of it was numbered in numerical order, beginning at several different meridians of longitude. The strips of townships running north and south along the west side of the meridian in question were referred to as Rge 1 W 1st, W 2nd, and W 3rd Mer., or as the case may be. The strip of townships to the west of it became Rge 2, Rge 3, Rge 4, and so on until the next meridian was reached. Stakes were placed at the north east corner of every section and township with numbers carried on them. Thus after the survey was completed, every individual quarter section in the surveyed portion had its own numerical identification.

Survey parties in 1883 were headed by W. A. Ashe and Henry Selby in the Carlton Region. The first survey of Twps. 44–45, Rges. 6–7 from the survey records of Henry Selby began on July 15, 1884 and was completed on April 1–1885. This involved 140 quarter sections.

Because of an Indian uprising throughout the North West and the Rebellion of 1885 "Battle of Batoche," surveying was discontinued in that year. A special corps of the surveyors was organized to fight the rebels.

With a victory at Batoche by the Canadian Militia, and the Indian uprising

suppressed throughout the North West, surveying of the region resumed and was completed by the year 1904

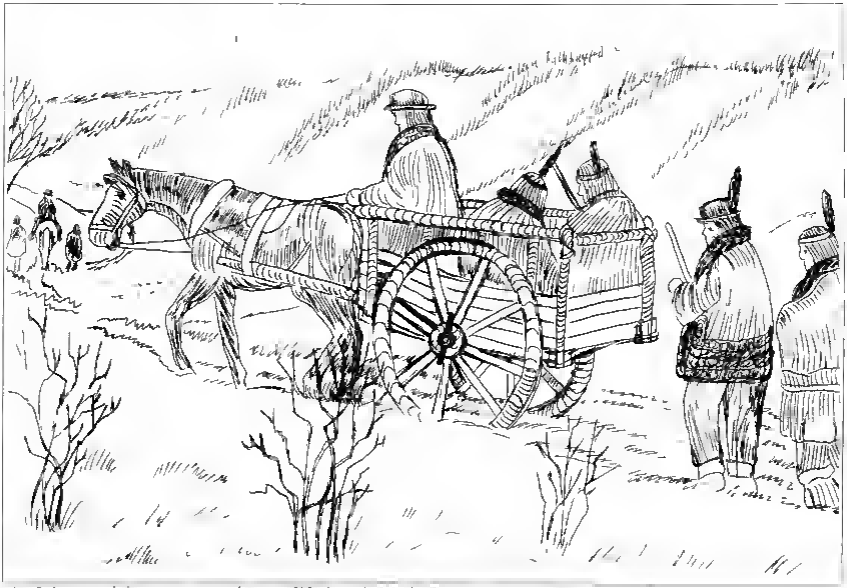
Man has left his impression on the landscape in various ways in the prairie region The prairie checkerboard so evident to a modern air traveller is the legacy of the surveyor Without doubt the Dominion Lands Survey was one of the most outstanding achievements in the early part of the nation's history

Surveyors Mound and Official Survey Post of the first surveys on the untamed Western Frontier at the Historic Park of Fort Edmonton Alberta. Photo Author 1984

Rebellion of 1885 (Metis)

The crisis came when the Hudson's Bay Company sold the West to the Canadian Government. This disturbed the Metis population. The transfer of their land was made without their consultation. Their resentment grew when the government surveyors began chaining across their narrow River Lots threatening their land tenure. These lots had a narrow frontage on the river giving each tenant water rights, access to river transportation, and proximity to their neighbors. The Metis feared their language and religion would not be respected by their new land owner. Surveying of land into 640-acre sections would have destroyed the solidarity of the Metis community and would have removed them from their land.

View of The St. Laurent River Lots as of the 1870 survey along the East Bank of the South Saskatchewan River near the vicinity of the St. Laurent Ferry. Photo Author 1984



When Riel summoned they came to protect their way of life their culture and their community

Riel and his council. Photo Courtesy Public Archives of Canada. C6692

The Metis disturbed at the refusal of the Canadian government to recognize their problems sent a delegation to St. Peters Mission in Montana. Louis Riel was recalled to negotiate with the government, to win back the support of the Metis claims. Riel, a Metis school teacher with his culture and education was able to give his people political leadership. He was concerned by the troubles of his people and returned to Batoche. The Metis formed a provisional goverment with a council of twelve, headed by Louis Riel. Gabriel Dumont had been named commander in chief of the Metis forces. He possessed the qualities of a guerrilla leader. Riel worked energetically to solve the Metis problem but failed to persuade the government to take a different view of the Metis concerns. He was then of the opinion that perhaps a show of strength would persuade the government that the Metis were united and determined to have their grievances adhered to.

Fort Carlton, a trading post was located in an area that was vulnerable to attack and could not withstand a siege. Prince Albert with its stores and warehouses was tempting for the Metis for much needed supplies.

On March 18, 1885 a column of police left Regina to reinforce the detachment at Prince Albert. This alerted the Metis that a large police force was coming to arrest Riel and his supporters. To forestall the police Riel and his men seized arms and ammunition from two stores at Batoche and took some prisoners, including a magistrate, two telegraph operators, and an Indian agent. They then cut the telegraph line between Batoche and Prince Albert, and took possession of the Batoche church building as headquarters.

Gabriel Dumont Photo Courtesy Saskatchewan Archives Board R A 6277

The police force at Fort Carlton increased by some eighty volunteers from Prince Albert. Dumont was then of the opinion that Fort Carlton should be attacked immediately. Riel, determined to preserve the Metis moral position, refused Dumont's request. The decision of the council of twelve was to capture the fort without conflict, by offering terms of surrender to Superintendent, L. F. N. Crozier, commander of the North West Mounted Police (N.W.M.P.) detachment at Fort Carlton.

The mounted police column from Regina arrived at Prince Albert on March 24, a journey of 300 miles, in seven days through severe winter weather. The arrival of the police column warded off a band of Sioux Indians who had taken refuge on the South Saskatchewan River, presumably to attack Prince Albert.

On March 26, a police patrol from Fort Carlton reported to Crozier that they had been stopped by a large force of Metis, who were recovering supplies hidden in an abandoned store near Duck Lake. Crozier decided to show the Metis that the N.W.M.P. could not be obstructed by armed rebels. The mounted police and volunteers proceeded to disperse the Metis.

The encounter with the Metis two miles from the Duck Lake store was a futile attempt. In a brief battle that lasted about 40 minutes, Crozier had to make a difficult and costly retreat under fire. Twelve men had died and eleven were wounded, a bullet had grazed Crozier's cheek. The Metis losses were four dead and Dumont had received a head wound.

While the Metis, in the Duck Lake encounter won a military victory, they had lost the campaign to gain recognition from the government.

News of the Duck Lake conflict reached Ontario and Quebec the next day after the encounter. Crozier's experience at Duck Lake confirmed Commissioner A. G. Irvine's opinion that the police force was not large enough to suppress the Metis, and should concentrate on the defense of Prince Albert and await mili-

Riel's Headquarters in 1885 (North West Rebellion 1885) Batoche — Roman Catholic Mission, Saskatchewan. Photo Courtesy Saskatchewan Archives Board. S B 6756.

DUCK LAKE BATTLEFIELD
HERE ON 26TH MARCH, 1885, OCCURRED THE FIRST COMBAT BETWEEN THE CANADIAN GOVERNMENT FORCES, UNDER MAJOR L. N. F. CROZIER, AND THE METIS AND INDIANS, UNDER GABRIEL DUMONT.
ICI, LE 26 MARS, 1885, EUT LIEU LA PREMIÈRE RENCONTRE ENTRE LES TROUPES DU GOUVERNEMENT DU CANADA, COMMANDÉES PAR LE MAJOR CROZIER, ET LES MÉTIS ET INDIENS COMMANDÉS PAR GABRIEL DUMONT.

Cairn marks the site of the Duck Lake Battlefied March 26 1885

Cairn location is on the Okemasis and Beardy Indian Reserve No s 96 and 97 along Highway 212 to Fort Carlton Historic Park Photo Author

tary reinforcements On the night of March 27 28, Fort Carlton was evacuated and mysteriously went down in flames

Prime Minister Sir John A McDonald dispatched Major Frederick Middleton, commander in chief of the Canadian Militia, to the West to take command of military operations The left wing of the 90th Winnipeg rifles a force of five hundred men, was dispatched by train to the Qu'Appelle station two days before the general's arrival at Winnipeg on March 27

Having won the Duck Lake encounter, Riel turned to agitate the Indian tribes for an uprising throughout the North West With numerous Indian uprisings, the army would be scattered as they suppressed the disturbances while trying to protect the settlers at the same time Riel's plan was to completely demoralize the striking force of the Canadian Army Riel then hoped to capture General Middleton and other senior officers, and force the Canadian government to settle on Metis terms

Riel placed a great value on Batoche Batoche was the home of the Metis the nucleus of their community which Dumont was surrounding with well-planned trenches and rifle pits This type of defense robbed the Metis of a guerrilla type of attack, and they were compelled to fight a conventional battle against an armed force that was superior, both in equipment and training for warfare of this type.

Middleton and his troops began their march from Fort Qu'Appelle on April 10 toward Batoche. Another column from Swift Current of three hundred troops under the Command of Lieut -Col W D Otter of Toronto was marching to join him at Clarke's Crossing The combined force was to proceed to take Batoche

An Indian uprising broke out 100 miles to the West of Batoche The Cree and Assiniboine Indians united and occupied Fort Battleford, while four hundred inhabitants and settlers took refuge in the N W M P fort Cree Indians also attacked Fort Pitt a Hudson's Bay post between Fort Battleford and Fort Edmonton and forced its abandonment Instead of joining Middleton's troops to attack Batoche, Otter received orders to advance to Fort Battleford

On April 23 Middleton's troops marched from Clark's Crossing Dumont knowing the size of Middleton's army knew the Metis could not hold out at Batoche against such a force. Indians and Metis led by Dumont attempted guerrilla tactics by setting up an ambush in a ravine at Fish Creek to demoralize the troops The surprise attack was lost when Middleton's scouts spotted some Indians who left their positions prematurely

Middleton's forces, repelled the ambush but suffered casualties in their encounter Ten soldiers were killed and forty were wounded Dumont's losses were eleven killed and eighteen wounded This halted Middleton's advance on Batoche for some two weeks, to await reinforcements and evacuate the wounded

When Middleton resumed his march to Batoche he had a "navy ' the Hudson's Bay steamer "Northcote " that arrived on May 9 after a long delay

The steamer was unable to make quick passage due to low water While moving downstream the steamer encountered heavy rifle fire from Metis and Indians hidden on the river bank, at the Gabriel's Ferry Crossing This caused the captain to lose control of the wheel, and the boat drifted into a ferry cable that was previously lowered by the Metis The cable sheared off the upper deck, the smoke stacks and the whistle, that was to be used as a signal to keep in touch with the movement of the troops

The arrival of the stern wheeler brought supplies, reinforcements, scouts and a Gatling gun (Gatling gun was a gun that had from four to ten barrels that rotated when turned by a crank firing five hundred rounds a minute) The gun was loaned by a Fire Arms Company at Hartford, Connecticut, for use in the campaign The gun was manned by Captain A L Howard, not as an official of the United States army, but as a demonstrator of the Gatling machine gun

On May 10 the "Northcote" was joined by the "Marquis " another Hudson's Bay Company boat at the Hudson's Bay Ferry Crossing below Batoche After several more embarrassing delays, the two boats reached Batoche However by then the battle was all over

The Battle of Batoche was fought on the outskirts of the village where the Metis had built a skillful defense system of rifle pits and trenches commanding all entry routes Thirty rows of rifle-pits were arranged in a semi-circle In each row there were from five to twenty-five well-dispersed pits Above the pit was a breast work of earth rocks and slotted logs for firing This was camouflaged by small branches thrust in the top

Some three hundred Metis and Indians led by Louis Riel and Gabriel Dumont defended Batoche The Metis except for a few Winchester repeater rifles were armed with muzzle loaders, firing either ball or shot The North West Field Force

General Frederick Middleton Photo Courtesy Public Archives of Canada P A 12197

Militia Camp at Batoche, 1885. Photo Courtesy, Provincial Archives of Alberta. A 5585.

Gabriel's Ferry, Spring, 1921, on the South Branch of the Saskatchewan River. At this ferry crossing the Hudson's Bay Steamer Northcote encountered heavy rifle fire from hidden Metis and Indians on the river banks during the Battle of Batoche, May, 1885. Photo Courtesy, Saskatchewan Archives Board. R-B597.

of eight hundred troops, under the command of Major General Frederick Middleton attacked Batoche. The troops were armed with single shot Sniders, a weapon that was superior by having much greater range.

The Metis, after three days of battle, were reduced to charging their muzzle loaders with nails, tacks and gravel. The battle ended the Metis resistance. They scattered into the woodland and slowly surrendered to the Canadian troops. Riel surrendered to three of Middleton's scouts on May 15, 1885. On August 1, 1885 Riel was found guilty of treason and was executed by hanging at the Mounted Police barracks in Regina on November 16, 1885. On December 9, Riel's body was transported to St. Boniface, Manitoba in a railway box car. Riel returned to the Red River, the place of his birth and the scene of his greatest political triumphs. He was a Provisional Governor of Manitoba and after confederation was elected as Member of Parliament, although he had never taken his seat. Louis Riel is buried in the grounds of the Basilica in St. Boniface.

Dumont escaped to Montana. A short time later, in July 1886 the Canadian government granted Dumont a full pardon. He returned to Batoche in 1890 and found that Middleton's troops had destroyed his barns and burnt his house. He built a cabin on the farm of his cousins and continued a quiet life of hunting, fishing, and trapping. He passed away in 1906, and was buried at Batoche in the cemetery adjacent to the Rectory.

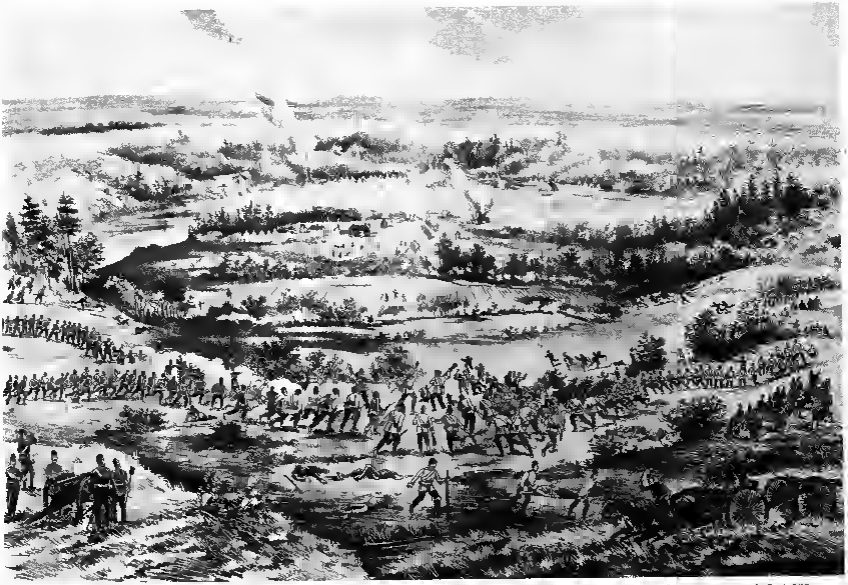
After the Metis defeat at Batoche, the troops were occupied suppressing the Indian unrest through the summer. By the

(North West Rebellion — 1885) Coulee at Fort Qu'Appelle. N.W.T. 12th and 35th Regiments and Winnipeg Cavalry. York and Simcoe Batteries en route through Touchwood Hills to Humboldt, Saskatchewan. Lt. Col. Wm. E. O'Brien on white horse commanding the York and Simcoe Battalions. Photo Courtesy Public Archives of Canada. C1876.

end of the summer the soldiers of the North West Field Force returned to their homes. They were offered a choice of rewards: land grants of 329 acres or a special campaign medal and eighty dollars if they preferred cash. General Middleton received twenty thousand dollars as a reward from the Canadian Parliament and was knighted by the Queen.

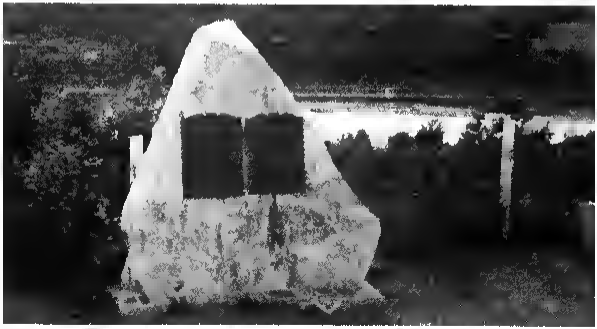
With the defeat at Batoche, pride, self-confidence and the spirit of the Metis was shattered. Their last stand as a distinct and united people was destroyed with the North West Rebellion in May 1885. The Metis, like their counterpart the Indian, were naturally equipped for life on the Western Frontier. The superiority of the Metis on the Western Plains had

Peters Album 711. Riel a prisoner. 1885. Photo Courtesy: Public Archives of Canada



From the Canadian Pictorial and Illustrated War News. Souvenir 11 August 29, 1885. P. 36. Photo Courtesy Saskatchewan Archives Board. R-A 287.

Louis Riel's Monument in the grounds of the Basilica St Boniface–Manitoba Photo/Courtesy Saskatchewan Archives Board R-A 4966.



Gabriel Dumont's Monument 1838 1906 in the Batoche Cemetery adjacent to the Rectory Photo Author 1983

(North West Rebellion — 1885) Riel addressing the Jury in Court House Regina Saskatchewan Photo Courtesy Public Archives of Canada. C 1879

North West Mounted Police Detachment at Batoche 1891 Photo Courtesy Saskatchewan Archives Board S B78

gone The Frontier was a land where the Metis belonged but were displaced with the opening of the land to trade and settlement

The government belatedly allowed the special survey of the River Lots to remain offering Metis land or money scrip Not all Metis remained to benefit many that had taken land scrip passed it over when a speculator offered a cash payment A land title had no meaning to the Metis as individual ownership of land was not a part of Metis culture

Some Metis, in later years, prospered as farmers and merchants A large number holding to their culture, were unwilling or unable to adapt They remained on submarginal land and received no consideration as a distinct and separate people With their future insecure, they attempted to resort to the new conditions of settlement

The land issue with the Metis was not the real problem The Metis went down in history like other men risking their lives, protecting their way of life, their culture, and their community It all ended for the Metis with the Battle of Batoche

Batoche Church Rectory and Cairn Batoche National Historic Site Photo Author 1983

Historical Museum at Batoche Photo Author 1983

St. Laurent Ferry on the South Saskatchewan River Photo Author 1984.

Early Settlers, Mennonites 1874-1920

The Early Settlers who pioneered into the agricultural prairies of Western Canada were of many cultural and ethnic origins

One must consider the impact of the variations in the settlers customs, beliefs and values and their social environment which influenced settlement and decision-making Much has been made of the action of ethnic groups molding landscapes into distinctive cultural landscapes of the Prairie West Although many groups participated in creating ethnic communities, each in their distinctive varying way, the groups that extracted concessions from the government, which allowed them to mold expressions of their beliefs and practices in the landscape they produced, were the 'Old Colony" Mennonites and people of Doukhobor Faith The government allowed such groups to settle 'en bloc' of land some similarity of beliefs was the basis of the unique aspects of their settlements

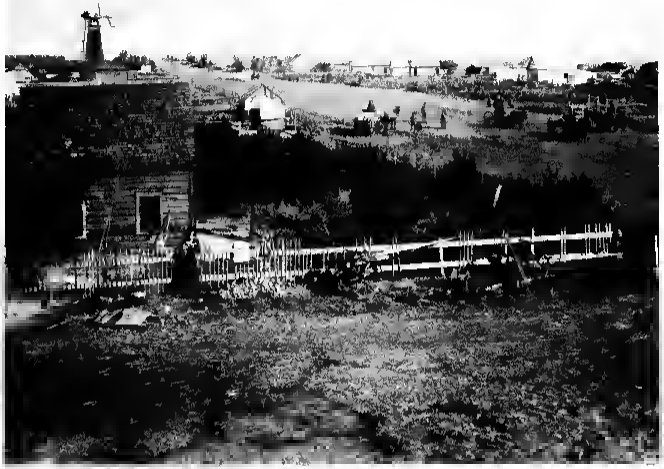
Their aspects of Christian beliefs is an old world settlement pattern, finds its origins in Medieval Europe Since 1868 a clause of the Militia Act allowed pacifist citizens for reasons of Faith be exempt from military service

The Mennonite migration to Canada began in the 1870's By the year 1900 some eight thousand Mennonites had migrated to Canada, in separate groups They were assured of religious freedom, free of political harassment by the Canadian government This was the beginning of a new frontier of group settlement, in the untamed wilderness of the Western Prairies

The first Mennonite group to migrate to Canada settled on a bloc of land of some eight townships in the province of Manitoba. The odd and even numbered sections were for homestead entry by the Mennonites, excluded were all the Hudson's Bay lands within that bloc The reserve was located east of the Red River and was known as the East Mennonite Reserve As the migration continued the land in the east reserve became exhausted A second reserve was established by the government in the south west portion of the province known as the West Mennonite Reserve which consisted of some seventeen townships, west of the Red River along the 49th parallel

The completion of a railroad from Regina, through Saskatoon to Prince Albert in 1890 by the Qu'Appelle Long Lake, Saskatchewan Railroad Company, began an era of transportation and communication into the Carlton Region The Duck Lake Post Office was established in 1879, on North East (N E-)¼ – Sec. 33 – Twp 43 Rge 2 – W 3rd Mer. The postmaster was Albert Scott In 1883 postal duties were taken over by Hillyard Mitchell who operated the post office until 1885, when it was closed due to the North West Rebellion The post office was again re-opened in 1888 with Ambrose Fisher as postmaster The Stobart Post Office served the Carlton Region, prior to the coming of the railroad

The 1890 era saw the establishment of a water tank along the newly constructed railroad This was to be a source of water supply for the steam locomotives operating on the railroad The water tank was



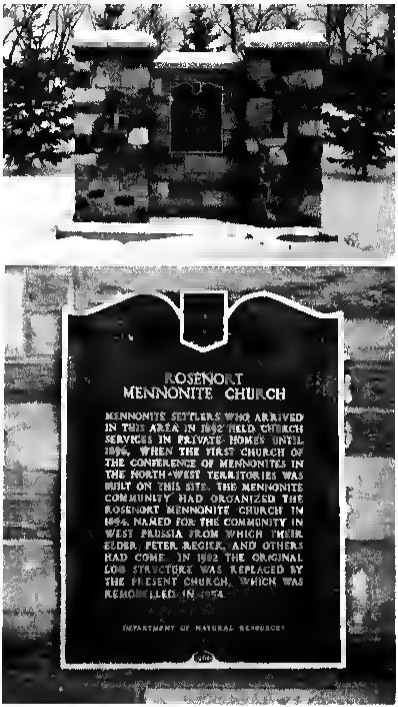
Mennonite Village Reinfeld Manitoba, 1898. Photo Courtesy Manitoba Archives Collection. Mennonites 66.

located in an area on the North West (NW) of – Sec 35 – Twp 42 – Rg 3 – W 3rd Mer A sign post was erected with a name plate, stamped Rosthern, identifying the location With a continuing migration of Mennonites to Canada, and a general increase in population the land made available in the Manitoba Reserve became overcrowded

In 1891 Mennonite families numbering some one hundred and forty people came west by railroad in search of new homestead land and settled in the Rosthern area

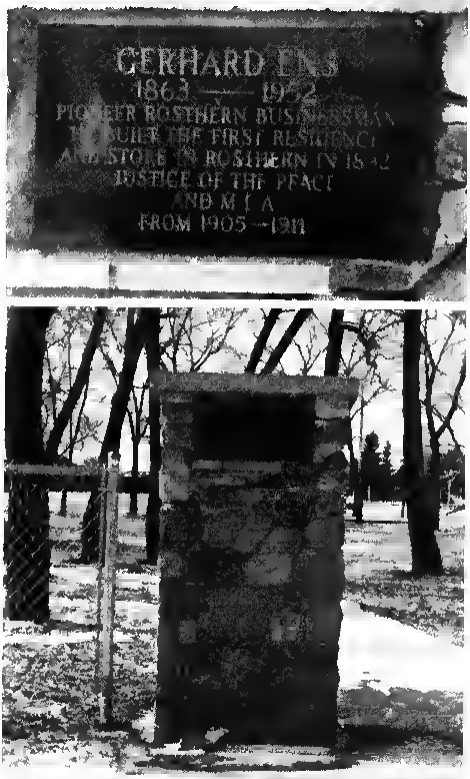
The Rosthern Post Office was established in 1893, with Gerhard Ens as postmaster The post office and general store that were operated by Mr Ens were located in a boxcar loaned by the Railway Company This was the beginning of homestead settlement of the Rosthern area by individual Mennonites

On a report dated 24th December 1894 from the Minister of the Interior stating that it has been represented to him on behalf of the Mennonite Settlers in Manitoba that their two Reserves in that Province are now overcrowded owing partly to the influx of


ROSENORT
MENNONITE CHURCH
MENNONITE SETTLERS WHO ARRIVED IN THIS AREA IN 1892 HELD CHURCH SERVICES IN PRIVATE HOMES UNTIL 1896, WHEN THE FIRST CHURCH OF THE CONFERENCE OF MENNONITES IN THE NORTH-WEST TERRITORIES WAS BUILT ON THIS SITE. THE MENNONITE COMMUNITY HAD ORGANIZED THE ROSENORT MENNONITE CHURCH IN 1894, NAMED FOR THE COMMUNITY IN WEST PRUSSIA FROM WHICH THEIR ELDER, PETER REGIER, AND OTHERS HAD COME. IN 1902 THE ORIGINAL LOG STRUCTURE WAS REPLACED BY THE PRESENT CHURCH, WHICH WAS REMODELLED IN 1954.
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Rosenort Mennonite Church Mennonite settlers who arrived in the area in 1892 held church services in private homes until 1896, when the first church of the Conference of Mennonites in the North West Territories was built on this site. The Mennonite community had organized the Rosenort Mennonite Church in 1894. Named for the community in West Prussia from which their elder, Peter Regier, and others had come. In 1902 the original log structure was replaced by the present church, which was remodelled in 1954. Department of Natural Resources 1966.

Rosenort Mennonite Church Cairn located on site adjacent to the Eigenheim Mennonite Church, along Highway 312, 9 km West of Rosthern Saskatchewan. Photo Author



Cairn commemorating Gerhard Ens *located in the Town of Rosthern Saskatchewan Photo Author*

their fellow countrymen from the United States and Europe and partly to the natural increase which has taken place since their first settlement in Manitoba and that, in order to meet the growing needs of their families and to encourage the settlement of their fellow countrymen in Canada, it becomes necessary for them to ask the Government to establish a reservation for them from lands in the Prince Albert District

The Minister further states that for this purposes they request that the even numbered sections in the following townships be reserved viz — Townships 40 in Ranges 3, 4 and 5 and Township 41 in Range 4 all West of the 3rd Meridian

The Minister observes that the principle of establishing reservations of land for settlement by Mennonites was first given effect to by an Order in Council of the 3rd of March 1873, which set apart certain Townships East of the Red River in the Province of Manitoba for this purpose, and that a second Reserve for the same purpose was established West of the Red River by a subsequent Order in Council dated the 25th of April 1876

These two reservations, however included both the odd and even numbered sections in the Townships set apart whereas the present application asks for the reservation of the even numbered sections only the intention of the Mennonites being to arrange for the purchase of the odd numbered sections from the Railway Company for which they are now set apart as a subsidy

The Minister further states that these people have prospered to a remarkable degree since their arrival in Manitoba, and fulfilled with singular goodfaith all the obligations undertaken by them in that relation repaying the advance of money made to them with interest to the last cent and fully colonizing their reservations with the choicest settlers They represent that it is now their intention to assist with their own means their fellow countrymen in Europe and elsewhere to remove to and settle upon the tract now applied for and that fifty families whom they expect in the Spring, will go direct to the proposed Reserve if it be made available for the purpose.

The Minister is of opinion that it is important in the public interest that the efforts of the Mennonites to induce the immigration of their friends in Europe and elsewhere to the North West should be encouraged and to do this it is necessary to give the intending settlers an assurance that they will be enabled to carry out the principles of their Social System and to settle together in hamlets (for which provision is made by Section 37 of the Dominion Lands Act) by obtaining entries for contiguous lands

The Minister with this view recommends that he be authorized to reserve for entry by Mennonites only the even numbered sections (exclusive of Hudson Bay Company's Lands) in the following Townships, so far as they may be at the disposal of the Government viz — Townships 40 in Ranges 3, 4 and 5 and Township 41 in Range 4 all West of the 3rd Meridian

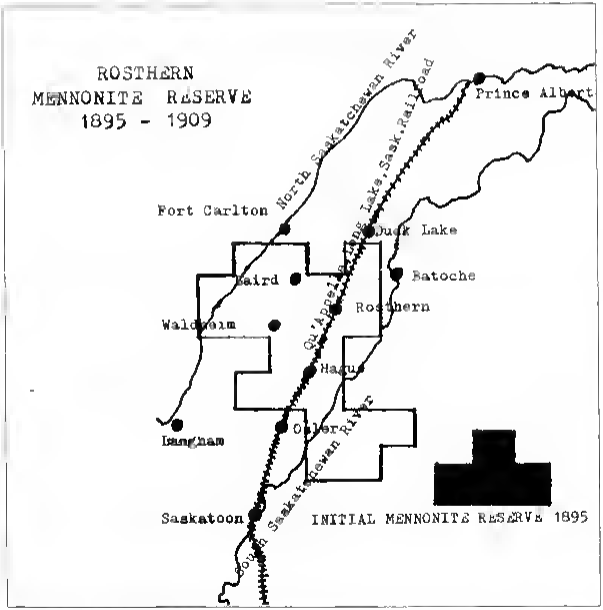
The Committee submit the foregoing for Your Excellency's approval

Clerk of the Privy Council

Early Settlers Temporary Quarters Hague Osler Area 1903 Rosthern Mennonite Reserve Photo Courtesy Saskatchewan Archives Board N W Farmer 1903 p 497 Photo Source Hella Bannan, Osler Saskatchewan

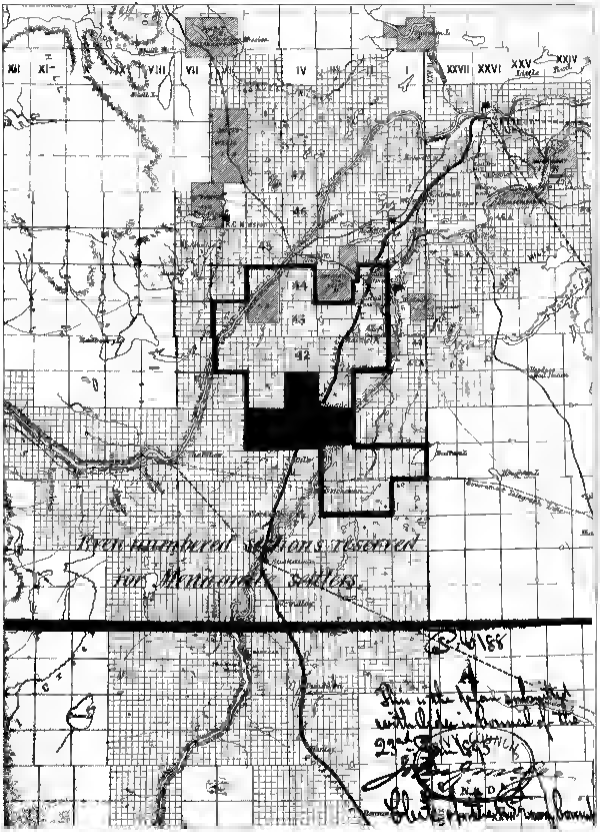
In the year 1895, the Rhineland Mennonite Association made application for reserve land in the Rosthern area. The government granted a reserve of four townships North of Saskatoon along the railroad in the Hague-Osler area. The reserve was located in Twp. 40 – Rges 3-5 and Twp. 41 – Rge. 4 all West of the Third Principal Meridian. An additional township was also added to the initial reserve, Twp. 41 – Rge. 3 – W 3rd Mer. All the even numbered sections were for settlement by the Mennonites; the odd-numbered sections were granted to the railway company, also excluded were all Hudson Bay lands.

By the year 1897 approximately two thousand Mennonites settled in the initial Rosthern Reserve. This exhausted all available land, and an additional nineteen townships were reserved by the government. The additional townships were clustered around the initial reserve. The Mennonites were also allowed to reach an agreement with the Qu'Appelle, Long Lake Saskatchewan Railway Company



Map showing Rosthern Mennonite Reserve

Eigenheim Mennonite Church *located along Highway 312 9 km West of the Town of Rosthern, Saskatchewan Photo Author*



Map showing Rosthern Mennonite reserve. Courtesy Public Archives Canada

for the purchase of the odd-numbered sections. This was to insure a place for all Mennonites in the reserve.

The village settlements in the Rosthern Reserve were of the Strassendorf pattern similar to the settlements of the Manitoba Reserves, a pattern of Old World settlements.

The term Strassendorf refers to the village pattern which consists of one street, with individual lots on either side. An individual lot was large enough to contain all farm facilities, including connected house and barn, livestock facilities, machinery storage, and garden plots.

The Mennonite families pooled their quarter sections of homestead land, numbering from eight to thirty families. Within that block of land they located their village. They co-operatively purchased that portion of land, approximately ½ section to 1 section, depending on the size

Mennonites arriving in Rosthern by train from Russia. Photo Courtesy Saskatchewan Archives Board. Photograph No. S-B 4576

Mennonite Settlement 1920 Public Archives Canada PA 18245

Pioneer Family of the Rosthern Reserve in traditional attire. Mr. and Mrs. John J. Dyck migrated from Chortitza Russia to Canada in 1891

From the Diary of J. J. Dyck: "Here we acquired land and the Lord blessed the labor of our hands with earthly goods. We suffered want no more. We offered thanks to the Lord. We learned to acknowledge His will through His word." Photo and Diary Source: Grandchildren J. H. Dyck Family

of the village. The property was deeded to their church or the village organization. This was to insure that the system would be maintained if an individual withdrew.

Although lumber was available few were able to afford it. The village dwellings were built from notched poplar logs, smoothly plastered with a mixture of clay, mud and straw. The roofs were thatched with straw or sod to complete the dwellings.

The first group of Mennonites that settled in the Rosthern Reserve received aid from the government in the form of a loan, for the purchase of supplies, machinery, and seed. The groups that followed were then assisted by the former group.

The first flour mill was erected in Rosthern in 1896. Prior to that time the Mennonite settlers greatly depended on the Prince Albert settlement for much needed goods and supplies such as seed grain, flour, lumber, etc.

By 1904 most of the Rosthern Reserve was settled, and some thirty-one villages made their appearance in the reserve as follows:

Gruefeld	Steinreich
Schoenweise	Lake Park
Gruenthal	Edinburg
Rheinland	Schmutsburg
Newhorst	Silberfeld
Blumenthal	Halbstatt
Hochstadt	Blumenfeld
Neuanlage	Hoffnungsort
Bluemenhiam	Steibach
Chortitz	New Home
Kronsthal	Nouhoffnung
Rosenfeld	Rosengrat
Osterwick	Rosenbach
Hochfeld	Schoenthal
Rheinfeld	Blumenart
Oglafeld	

Pioneer Days from an oil painting by Agatha Stupnikoff

Mennonite House and Attached Barn Rosthern Mennonite Reserve Photo Courtesy Saskatchewan Archives Board S B 4577 Photo Source J J Neudorf Rosthern Saskatchewan.

Mennonite Settlement Blumenhof C. 1910 with a supply of winter fuel (coal). Photo Courtesy Saskatchewan Archives Board R.A 2753

In 1904 the Rhineland Mennonite Association of Manitoba was seeking more agricultural land for settlement. Their request for land south of the town of Swift Current was granted. The Minister of the Interior, Clifford Sifton, reserved six townships for the Swift Current Mennonite Reserve.

Due to subsequent political changes, government interference was evident in the Mennonite Reserve Settlement in 1909. The government made available for general settlement all the land that was not occupied by Mennonites, thus eliminating all reserve boundaries. The interference in the German schools by replacing them with English speaking public schools proved intolerable to many of the conservatively minded 'Old Colony' Mennonites, as German instruction would preserve Mennonite culture. In 1922 some five hundred and fifty left the Rosthern Reserve and migrated to Mexico and later to South America.

The Mennonites that remained continued to farm with some families moving to their individual homesteads while others lived in the village and each farmed their individual land.

Mennonites leaving Hague for Mexico 1922. (Rosthern Mennonite Reserve.) Photo Courtesy: Saskatchewan Archives Board. Photograph No. S B 4577

Early Settlers, Doukhobors 1899-1907

The government concessions made to the Mennonites, and the experiment of settling the prairies with communities of experienced agricultural people proved satisfactory to the government The government enacted similar concessions to the Russian Doukhobors prior to their migration to Canada in 1899

The plight of a group of religious pacifists, who were under oppression and severe persecution in Czarist Russia, attracted the attention of Count Leo Tolstoy, and the Society of Friends in England and America With their aid, the mass migration of Doukhobors to Canada was to begin This group of God fearing people were willing to endure the hardships of a new beginning The open and untamed Canadian prairies were the new horizons where the Doukhobors hoped to live within their beliefs, free of oppression

On a Report dated 30th November 1898 from the Minister of the Interior stating that arrangements have been completed with Mr Aylmer Maude of London England the representative of the sect of Russians known as Doukhobors who now inhabit the slopes of the Caucasus in Russia, for the immediate emigration to Canada of several thousands of these people That from a despatch dated 27th May 1898 addressed to the Foreign Office by Her Majesty's Consul at Batoum it would appear that since their settlement in the region of the Caucasus, the Doukhobors have by their good behavior diligence, sobriety and hard working qualities, brought nothing by prosperity to the barren localities in which they were originally settled, but as from religious doctrines they are averse to bearing arms an exemption which the Russian Government has refused to continue they have been permitted by the latter to depart from Russia

The Minister under the circumstances, and considering that the Doukhobors would appear to be a most desirable class of settlers to locate upon the vacant Dominion Lands in Manitoba and the North West Territories, is of opinion that it is expedient to give them the fullest assurances of absolute immunity from military service in the event of their settling in this country

The Minister submits that Sub Section 3 of Section 21 of the Militia Act Chapter 41 of the Revised Statutes of Canada, contains the following provision —

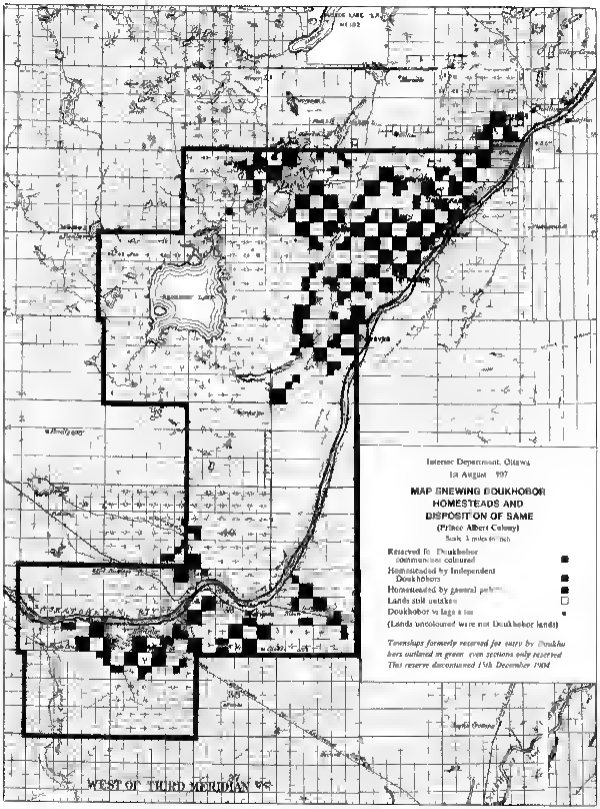
Every person bearing a certificate from the Society of Quakers, Mennonites or Tunkers, and every inhabitant of Canada of any religious denomination otherwise subject to military duty who from the doctrines of his religion is averse to bearing arms and refuses personal military service shall be exempt from such service when balloted in time of peace or war upon such conditions and under such regulations as the Governor in Council from time to time prescribes.

The Minister recommends that under the power vested in Your Excellency in Council by the above provision the Doukhobors, settling permanently in Canada be exempted unconditionally from service in the Militia upon the production in each case of a certificate of membership from the proper authorities of their community

The Committee submit the same for Your Excellency's approval

Doukhobors were adapted to a communal lifestyle and were experienced farmers Being vegetarians they depended largely on the skill of their gardening ability

The agreement under which the Doukhobors came was not completely explained in detail Misunderstanding on


Interior Department, Ottawa
1st August 1907
MAP SHEWING DOUKHOBOR HOMESTEADS AND DISPOSITION OF SAME
(Prince Albert Colony)
Scale 3 miles to 1 inch
Reserved to Doukhobor communities coloured
Homesteaded by Independent Doukhobors
Homesteaded by general public
Lands still untaken
Doukhobor village sites
(Lands uncoloured were not Doukhobor lands)
Townships formerly reserved for entry by Doukhobors outlined in green even sections only reserved
This reserve discontinued 15th December 1908
WEST OF THIRD MERIDIAN

Prince Albert Doukhobor Reserve map showing Doukhobor Village Sites and Doukhobor lands Courtesy Saskatchewan Archives Board

both sides especially in land regulations eventually resulted in the dissolution of the reserves

The migration of some seven thousand four hundred Doukhobors began in December 1898 Two ships were commissioned for their transfer to Canada, the Huron and Lake Superior These two ocean freighters were converted to accommodate the Doukhobors in their strenuous ocean voyage to the eastern Canadian port of Halifax

The first contingent of Doukhobors arrived in the Port of Halifax in January 1899 As the Doukhobor arrival was during the winter months, they proceeded West by train, and were housed in immigration halls in Winnipeg, Brandon, Dauphin, Selkirk, and Yorkton areas

The concessions were No 1, "Militia Act," unconditional exemption from the militia No 2 "Hamlet Act," which allowed the building of villages each village to constitute a settlement of not less than twenty families They were allowed to settle in villages and make application for a homestead within a radius of 9 miles, including road allowances which increased the radius to 11 miles The Doukhobors were assured that they would not be required to reside individually on homesteads as they were not accustomed to living on individual farms Assurance was given that there would be no government interference into the internal organization of their community

In the early spring the Doukhobor men began the construction of villages in the two Doukhobor Reserves in the Yorkton area The North Colony in the Assiniboia area some 70 miles North of Yorkton was a reserve of six townships The South Colony was some 30 miles North of Yorkton a reserve of fifteen townships With the even-numbered sections for settlement by the Doukhobors the odd numbered sections were reserved by the government for selection by the railways Some six thousand Doukhobors that arrived in the first three contingents settled in villages on the two reserves in the Yorkton area in 1899

The last of the four contingents arrived in Halifax in June 1899 They proceeded by train to Winnipeg, where they were housed in immigration halls The Doukhobor men worked on the railway gangs in the Winnipeg area for several months The destination of this group was to the Northern Colony in the Carlton Region the Prince Albert Doukhobor Reserve, a reserve of twenty townships, located from the west bank of the North Saskatchewan River bordered by the north boundary of Twp 44 stretching West to include Rges 5-9 - W 3rd Mer then a boundary line due South crossing the North Saskatchewan River at Twp 39 – Rge 10 – W 3rd Mer enhancing some three townships from the east bank of the river in Twps 38-39 – Rges 7-10 in the Langham area

The group of some one thousand four hundred and fifty people after their stopover in Winnipeg, proceeded West by train to settle in the Prince Albert Reserve They arrived at the Duck Lake station in the month of November, with their meager belongings they had brought from Russia The group spent a long and harsh winter sheltered in makeshift homes and tents, in the Duck Lake and Carlton Regions, with assistance from the Society of Friends, "Quakers," who sent vital supplies of food and clothing for their survival through the first winter on their new frontier

The settlement of the Prince Albert Reserve began in the early spring of 1900 The settlers were crossing the river at the Carlton Crossing Sec 5 – Twp 45 – Rge 4 – W 3rd Mer which was now served by a cable guided ferry, as compared to the hazardous crossing of the canoe York boat, and Scow This cable ferry serving the area, was operated by Mr Modeste Bourasa under contract with the government Traffic on the ferry in 1898 was 5 500

The construction of villages on selected sites began in the years 1900-1902 The selection of village sites was made by

Carlton Ferry at the turn of the Nineteenth Century Photo Courtesy Saskatchewan Archives Board S B 4686

Doukhobor Village from an oil painting by Agatha Stupnikoff

DOUKHOBOR HERITAGE
IN 1899 A GROUP OF DOUKHOBORS FROM RUSSIA ESTABLISHED THE FIRST VILLAGE OF KIRILOVKA, 1/2 MILE WEST OF HERE THE SECOND VILLAGE OF BOGDANOVKA, 5 MILES NORTH - WEST AND THE THIRD VILLAGE OF POKROVKA 11 MILES WEST
THESE SETTLERS, SEEKING RELIGIOUS FREEDOM, THRIVED DESPITE SEVERE HARDSHIPS, DEPRIVATIONS AND COLD
THIS PLAQUE IS DEDICATED TO THE FIRST PIONEERS AND ERECTED BY THE
DOUKHOBOR SOCIETY OF LANGHAM.

Cairn commemorating Doukhobor village settlements in the Southern portion of the Prince Albert Doukhobor Reserve Langham area 1899 1907
Cairn location five km west of the town of Langham along Highway No. 16 Yellowhead Photo Author 1983.

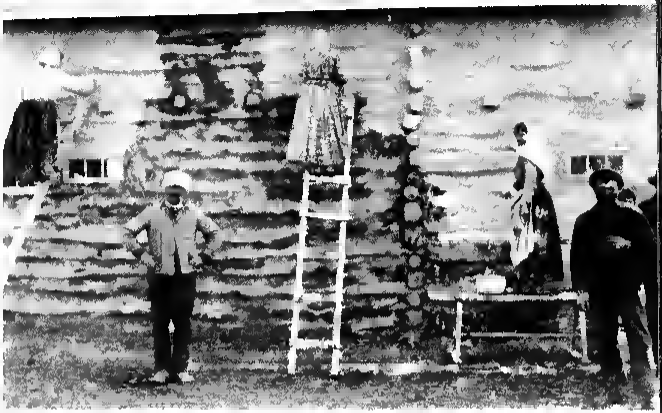
DOUKHOBOR RESERVES

LIST OF VILLAGE SITES TO BE SURVEYED AND SUBDIVIDED INTO LOTS

PRINCE ALBERT RESERVE

Name of Village	Location	Area of site and remarks
Karilowa	N W 14 39-8-3	To be defined
Bodanotka	N W 20 39-8-3	To be defined
Pakrofka	W ½ 4 39-9-3	20 acres
Petrofka	W ½ of N W 30 42-6-3	80 acres, except 2 30 ac reserved thereout for School site
Oospennie	S E 1 44-6-3	20 acres Balance of ¼ entered for
Slavenka	N E 17 44-5-3	20 acres Balance of ¼ entered for
Spasofka	N E 14 45-5-3	20 acres Balance of ¼ entered for
Pasariofka	S W 27 44-6-3	20 acres Balance of ¼ entered for
Large Horelofka	E ½ of S W 35 44-8-3	80 acres
Small Horelofka	N W 31 44-7-3	20 acres
Troitzkea	W ½ 2 44-7-3	20 acres
Terpennie	S W 22 43-6-3	20 acres

Original Pioneer Dwellings: house and barn, remaining evidence of the pioneer era in the Carlton Region, located on S E ¼ Sec. 29, Twp 44, Rge 5 — W3rd Mer. in the R M of Blaine Lake 434. From an oil painting by Agatha Stupnikoff



Early Settlers plastering a log house with a mixture of clay mud and straw Photo Courtesy Saskatchewan Archives Board S A 129

Doukhobors in Saskatchewan typical barn of the early settlements 1900 1907 Photo Courtesy Saskatchewan Archives Board S B 2954

Author s daughter seated at the spinning wheel that was used by her Great Grandmother Anna Tekanoff in the early 1900 s also wearing the wedding attire of the 1860 s of her other Great Grandmother Anne Perehudoff Traditional Doukhobor dress was hand sewn from material which was from home spun wool and home woven linen Photo Author 1984

Doukhobors who preferred village sites close to heavily wooded areas with wells that would provide a sufficient amount of good quality water for the villagers. The wooded areas were to be a source of building logs for the village dwellings.

During this period twelve Doukhobor villages made their appearance, with nine of the villages located in an area that is now the Rural Municipality of Blaine Lake 434 — Petrovka, Spasofka, Large Harelofka, Small Harelofka, Terpennie, Troitzkaa, Pasariofka, Oospennie, and Slavenka.

The remaining three villages were at the foot of the south boundary of the reserve, on the opposite side of the river, along the east bank in the Langham area — Karilowa, Bodanofka, and Pakrofka.

The villages were laid out in the same pattern as they were in Russia, also acquiring the former village names that certain groups of villagers had formerly lived in. The village had a long street with houses built on either side, built from hewn logs smoothly plastered with a mixture of clay, mud, and straw. The roofs were thatched with sod to complete the dwelling. Livestock facilities were also constructed in the same manner within the village area. The villages consisted of approximately fifteen homes per village, with each house large enough to accommodate up to four families. The population of each village was approximately one hundred and twenty people. Petrovka was one of the first villages built on the west bank of the North Saskatchewan River, Sec. 30 – Twp. 43 – Rge. 6 – W 3rd Mer. It was one of the focal points in the history of the province.

Self-sufficiency helped the Doukhobors survive during the first years. The cultivation of soil in a communal lifestyle began in the year 1900, with some 123 acres cultivated. Hand-guided plows were made by the villagers and drawn by oxen. Furniture was made out of hand-hewn wood. Utensils such as spoons were also carved out of wood. Spinning of linen thread that was later woven on home-made looms was made into homespun cloth. Spinning of wool for hand-knitted garments was made into sweaters, stockings, mitts, gloves, etc.

Grist mills for the grinding of grain into flour were built near the villages of Terpennie, Spasofka, and Bodanofka. The Terpennie Grist mill was powered by a water wheel, from a creek which was flowing through N.W. ¼ – Sec. 16 – Twp. 42 – Rge. 6 – W 3rd Mer. that merged with the North Saskatchewan River. The residents of the area at the time named it Radouga Creek, symbolic of a rainbow.

The year 1902 marked the turn of events in the Doukhobor communities. A number of families preferring economic independence to the communitarian lifestyle left the villages and made entry on homestead lands. Conforming to the Homestead Act they commenced living independently. They were so called the "Independent Doukhobors."

Sunday Activities at Petrofka Village Saskatchewan 1903-04 Photo Courtesy Provincial Archives of British Columbia. C1623

Gathering the first harvest on the Prairies 1899. Photo Courtesy Provincial Archives of British Columbia C1480

Volunteer Doukhobor women pulling a hand guided plow of their own accord in the spring of 1900 breaking enough virgin sod for the planting of gardens. All able bodied men were occupied in the construction of village dwellings while others trekked to Winnipeg to acquire work with the construction gangs on the railroad. This was the communitarian lifestyle of the Doukhobors. Action of this nature by Doukhobor women occured only in one instance in their new settlements on the Western Prairies. Photo Courtesy Saskatchewan Archives Board. S B 4260

Form F
8081

No. ~~8077~~

APPLICATION FOR A HOMESTEAD ENTRY BY AN AGENT.

I, G. Eno, do hereby apply on behalf of Semen Pastuchoff of the Village of Northern in the County of

for Homestead Entry, under the provisions of sub-clause of Clause 36 of the "Dominion Lands Act," for the N.W. Quarter Section of Section Number 16 of the 44 Township, in the 5 Range west of the 2nd Meridian

Gerhard Eno

Prince Albert District.

Rosthern Sask. MAR 20 1902

NOTE.—The statistical information called for below will be obtained and filled in by the Agent when granting entry

Number in family including entrant.	NATIONALITY	WHERE FROM	PREVIOUS OCCUPATION
3	Doukhobor	Russia	Farmer

Form No 1—1,000-1-01.

40

Form H.

AFFIDAVIT by an Agent in support of Claim for Homestead Entry on behalf of a person who has not previously Settled on the Land.

I, G. Lee, do solemnly swear that Semen Potiritzoff of Wadena for whom I am acting herein as Agent, is over eighteen years of age, that to the best of my knowledge and belief the land in respect of which the application is made is of the class open for homestead entry; that there is no person residing upon the said land, nor are there any improvements thereon and that the application is made for the exclusive use and benefit of the said Semen Potiritzoff with the intention of his residing upon and cultivating the said land and not directly or indirectly for the use or benefit of any other person or persons whomsoever, and that he has not heretofore obtained an entry for a homestead on Dominion Lands.

Subscribed and sworn before me this 20th day of March 1902 before me.

Hugsman & Dyde
Local Agent

Gerhard Lee

Sworn Statement of

Semen S. Poskurkoff on account

of his application for Homestead Patent for the NW ¼

of Section 6 Twp. 44 Rge. 5 W of 2nd Meridian.

1. What is your name in full, age and Post Office address?

Semen S. Poskurkoff, 37 years,
Rondeau.

2. Are you a British subject by birth or naturalization? If naturalized state when and where.

Naturalized at Prince Albert on 22.6.04

3. When did you obtain entry for the homestead?

7 April 1913.

4. When did you build your house thereon? And when did you begin actual residence thereon?

5. What portion of each year since that date have you resided thereon? Give each month, as near as you know.

6. When absent from your homestead where have you resided and what has been your occupation?

Principally
I am since April 1913 were doing on the Village of Rosthern on the NW ¼ of 1-44-5 w 2nd Meridian.

7. If you have hired or land owned by yourself in the vicinity, answer the following questions:—

(a.) Describe such land.

Section ... Twp. ... Rge. ... M.

(b.) When did you become the owner of it?

(c.) How did you acquire it?

(d.) What buildings have you on it?

(e.) Do you now the said land at the present time?

(f.) What residence have you performed on it?

Myself, wife and Sabbatarian

8. Of whom do your family consist; when did they first commence residence upon said homestead, and for what portion of each year since last have they resided upon it?

Year 1913	Self, Wife, Son	15	Above occupied
Year 1909	" "	25	"
Year 1911	" "	10	"
Year 1912	" "	15	"
Year 1913	" "	15	"
Year 1914	" "	25	"
Year 1915	" "	15	"
Year			

9. How much breaking have you done upon your homestead in each year since you obtained entry and how many acres have you cultivated each year?

10. How many horned cattle, horses, sheep and pigs, of which you are owner have you had on your homestead each year since date of entry, its entirety? Give number in each year.

11. What is the size of your house on your homestead of what material, and what is its present cash value?

12. What amount of fencing have you made on your homestead and what is its present cash value thereof?

13. What other buildings have you erected on your homestead? What other improvements have you made thereon, and what is the cash value of the same?

14. Are there any indications of mineral or minerals on your homestead? If so, place nature of same, and whether the land is more valuable for its mineral than for any other purpose.

Not to my knowledge

15. Have you had any other homestead entry? If so, describe it and say what became of it?

No

16. Have you mortgaged, assigned or incumbered, or agreed to mortgage, assign or encumber your account homestead, or any part thereof? If so, when and to whom?

No

Form No. 168 (New).

In the Matter of Homestead Entry No. 6744

Rosthern.

To wit:

I, Simeon S. Postnikoff do solemnly affirm that the answers to the foregoing questions are true and correct to every particular. That I claim a Patent for this Homestead under the provisions of the Dominion Lands Act."

That I obtained an entry, and claim a Patent for the same for my own benefit, and not in the interest or for the benefit of any other person or persons whomsoever.

Affirmed before me at Rosthern this 20 day of September in the year of our Lord one thousand nine hundred and seven having first been read over and explained to the said applicant.

Simeon S. Postnikoff

Frank Eberhart

Agent of the Dominion Lands at Prince Albert for the Prince Albert District.

I recommend the foregoing application for Patent; believing that the homestead requirements of the "Dominion Lands Act" have, in this case, been complied with.

Dated at Prince Albert, this 14th day of November A.D. 1907.

J. P. Harmon

Local Agent for Dominion Lands for Prince Albert District.

Ottawa, SEP 7 1907 19

Accepted as sufficient.

E. Fitz Roy Dixon

Acting Deputy Commissioner

DATE OF CERTIFICATE OF NATURALIZATION 22-6-04
RECEIVED AND RETURNED TO HOMESTEADER
Sept. 13. 1907

The Society of Friends "Quakers" from London, England sent Michael Sherbinin, a Russian expatriate nobleman, in 1901 to the Prince Albert colony to begin teaching Doukhobor children to read and write in English and do simple arithmetic. Sherbinin went to the Petrovka village where he first taught in the villagers' houses, and later in a lean to in a home he built for himself. The classes were small and most of the student children were of Independent Doukhobors. A permanent two-room school for Doukhobor children was built by British Quakers in the Petrovka village in 1906.

One of the students that attended the Petrovka village school was Peter G. Makaroff who later graduated from the College of Law. Mr. Makaroff was the first Doukhobor to obtain a degree in law.

The government of the North West Territories in 1901 established a ferry near the site of the Petrovka village, to facilitate Doukhobor communities access to markets at Rosthern, some 30 miles away. It was early known as the Doukhobor Ferry but later renamed after the former village. The ferry was operated by Mr. N. Postnikoff under contract with the government.

The settlement of homestead lands from the west bank of the North Saskatchewan River, that were not a part of the Prince Albert Doukhobor Reserve, began in 1900 with entries being made on even-numbered sections, by settlers of various origin. The odd numbered sections were retained by the government for selection by railways.

On September 28, 1900 entry on a homestead was made by Hughes Gillies.

Patrolka Ferry 1917 R.N.W. Mounted Police on patrol crossing by ferry. Photo Courtesy Saskatchewan Archives Board RA 559

Pilgrims First Harvest on the Prairies. From an oil painting by Agatha Stupnikoff

aged 60, together with his family — a wife and ten children on S W ¼ Sec 10 – Twp 45 – 45 – Rge 6 – W3rd Mer In 1901 he built his house thereon In 1903 it was established as the site of the first post office to serve the area named the Gillies Post Office operated by Mr Gillies Mail was delivered semi-weekly from Duck Lake, the nearest railway and telegraph station some 27 miles away

On October 16, 1903 entry on a homestead was made by Jos Parteneau aged 40, together with his family — a wife and two children on S E ¼ – Sec 20 – Twp 45 – Rge 4 – W 3rd Mer In August 1903 he built his house thereon This became the site of the second post office (serving the eastern portion of the area), named Chellwood Post Office Mail was delivered four times a week from Duck Lake, the nearest railway and telegraph station some 18 miles away

(The Chellwood and Gillies Post Offices were located on homestead lands in Twp 45; this Twp was not a part of the Prince Albert Doukhobor Reserve)

On the prairie were the new horizons where the Doukhobors had hoped to live a lifestyle within their beliefs However, the Canadian government was in the process of solidification Untamed prairie wilderness where every community was law within itself had died with Louis Riel and the fallen Metis in the Rebellion of 1885

The Doukhobor homestead crisis between the government and the Doukhobors began in 1904 The concessions granted to the Doukhobors by Clifford Sifton Minister of the Interior, and Wm Mcreary Minister of Immigration, primarily in the Dominion Land Act were re-interpreted by the newly appointed Minister of the Interior, Frank Oliver who replaced Sifton Acting on their interpretation of the law the Community Doukhobors ignored government authority by failing to supply vital statistics and by failing to conform with the Homestead Act also refusing to sign the Oath of Allegiance (The Community Doukhobors refrained from signing the Oath of

Gillies Post Office 1902 Photo Courtesy Saskatchewan Archives Board Cochin Photo Album

Allegiance because the administering of an Oath was contrary to their beliefs)

From the
Book of Life of Doukhobors
Translated version 1978 relevant to Doukhobor beliefs This "Defence of a Christian" was composed by the Transcaucasian Doukhobors in 1894 when they refused to fulfill military duty and other government requirements

PSALM 374
A Christian's Defence

I am not going to give you my oath nor am I going to serve you because I am a Christian I do not wish to kill my brethern nor force them to commit violence, according to the words of our God and Lord Jesus Christ. I consider all people living on earth as children of one Father and therefore my brothers Our Lord and God Jesus Christ forbids us to take an oath Read the Gospel of Mathew chapter twenty-three You will find there that the Lord forbids us to swear and swearing is taking an oath Even the law does not permit me to serve you because as a Christian, I should not prepare myself willingly to slay my brothers Read the Ten Commandments It is written there "thou shalt not kill or steal, nor commit adultery" Our Lord Jesus Christ also gave us two commaudments orally The first commandment says "thou shalt love The Lord God with all thy heart and with all thy soul and with all thy mind — this is the first and great commaudment" The second one says "thou shalt love thy brother and neighbour as thyself" On these two commaudments rests all the law of God

Resentment aud prejudice towards the community lifestyle of the Doukhobors, became evident by individual settlers outside the Doukhobor Reserve boundaries Their grievauce attracted the attention of the Minister of the Interior This became one of many factors that influenced the Minister in his recommendations for the government's action towards the Doukhobors at the time

Oliver appointed a special commission in 1905, headed by Reverend John McDougal, Methodist minister to investigate the Doukhobor problem he was also instructed to enforce the homestead land regulations Reverend McDougal, upon visiting the villages, advised the Community Doukhobors on the basis of his own personal interpretation of the Hamlet Act Thus all entries on homestead land in excess of 3-mile radius from the villages must be occupied by those families who made entry on the said land They must also conform with the Homestead Act by signing the Oath of Allegiance and failure to do so would result in the disposition of their lands

The remaining land within the 3-mile radius of a village would remain for the Community Doukhobors an allocation of 15 acres per family would be granted Negotiations between Reverend McDougal and Peter W Verigin, Spiritual Leader of Doukhobors resulted in failure with Doukhobors refusing to accept McDougal's interpretation Because of their religious faith as pacifists they offered no further resistance This began the dissolution of the Doukhobor Reserves All even-numbered sections that entries were not made on by the Doukhobors, were open for entry to settlers of various origin in 1905

Two provinces were carved out of the North West Territories in 1905 the province of Alberta, with Edmouton as the Provincial Capital and the province of Saskatchewan with Regina as the Provincial Capital — also attaining the title of "Queen City" of the West.

Gerhard Eus former postmaster of the Rosthern Post Office and one who was active in the settlement of the Rosthern area by Mennonites, was elected and served as a sitting member of the first legislative assembly formed in the new province of Saskatchewan in 1905

34333

L.N. Prince Albert, 29th August 1907

Memo for Head Office

Lot 4, 44-5-W 3rd Meridian.

Entry of Seman Konkin.
Cancelled on the 23rd Jan. 1907, under instructions received from the Dominion Commissioner.
Land open for entry the 10th June 1907.
Disposed of on the 12th of June, to Roderick McKennan, he being the first applicant.
Nothing paid for improvements.
reported to be 60 acres of breaking by Gould Bros.
Homest ad Inspector instructed to report.

Copy for Homestead Inspector Report No. 786

Form No. 34

34333 HOMESTEAD INSPECTOR'S REPORT.

No. of Report 878

Name of Homesteader Roderick McLennan

Land:—Hd R Lot 4 Sec. 4 Tp 44 Rg 5 M. 3

Entered ____ conditions ____

Post Office nearest to land Chellwood

Present Post Office address Dent Known

Is residence or not No

What residence has been performed None

House None Size ____ Value ____

Stable None Size ____ Value ____

Granary None Size ____ Value ____

Fencing Nature ____ Value ____

Well—Value ____ other buildings ____

____ Value ____

Stock ____

Cultivation—No. of acres broken ____ Value ____

" " cropped ____ Value ____

Nature of soil ____ Subsoil ____

Area fit for cultivation ____

Marsh or Lake ____

Timber ____

Hay land ____

General remarks. There is some Bush breaking but it is very difficult to measure it now as it is covered with Snow

James McNab
Homestead Inspector

Inspected Feb 26 08

[Section Diagram Over]

By the year 1907 all entries made on land by the Community Doukhobors were cancelled by the government, for failure to comply with the homestead land regulations. The cultivation and improvements on all cancelled Doukhobor homestead lands in the Prince Albert Reserve were disregarded and no compensation was awarded to the Doukhobors in the Prince Albert Reserve by the government as a result of the cancellation. On June 1, 1907 the community lands were opened for entry at the Prince Albert Lands Branch Office. The rush began for Doukhobor lands with several hundred applicants gathered at the Lands Branch Office two days prior to the opening as they were aware of the fact that much of this land was under cultivation.

In the years 1908 to 1910 one thousand Doukhobors adhered to the independence of individual farming, by making application for homestead land that was a part of their community prior to the dissolution of the reserve. Conforming with the Dominion Land regulations, they remained to farm as Independent Doukhobors in the Prince Albert District. While adhering to their faith they slowly adapted to the society around them.

STATEMENT re DOUKHOBOR HOMESTEADS

Ottawa, August 1, 1907

The Donkhobor Commission dealt with a total of 2,757 Doukhobor homesteads in the Yorkton, Prince Albert and Regina agencies —

There were cancelled on the recommendation of the Donkhobor Commissioner Doukhobor entries totalling	2,503
There were standing vacant Doukhobor homesteads which had previously been cancelled to the number of	79
There were standing reserved as village sites	39
There were entries standing of independent Donkhobors numbering	136
Total in three districts	2 757

Land Rush at the Prince Albert Land Branch Office for Doukhobor lands in the Prince Albert Doukhobor Reserve 1907. Photo Courtesy Saskatchewan Archives Board R A 4557

STATEMENT re DISPOSITION OF DOUKHOBOR HOMESTEADS

Ottawa August 1, 1907

Following is a memorandum showing how the 2,757 Doukhobor homesteads dealt with by the Donkhobor Commission have been disposed of —

Set apart as reserves for Doukhobor communities	768
Under entry to independent Doukhobors	384
Thrown open to the general public —	
Taken to date	1,211
Still untaken	394
	1,605
	2,757

Those Doukhobors who desired to continue a communal way of life left the province with their Spiritual Leader and moved to the Kootenay Valley in British Columbia, where they acquired land for a new beginning.

In 1909 another ferry was established on the North Saskatchewan River, West of the village of Laird, Sec. 31 – Twp. 43 – Rge. 5 – W 3rd Mer. as considerable trade was anticipated at this crossing. The ferry was named "Telfungrund Ferry," and was later named "Laird Ferry." Traffic on the ferry in 1910 was 3,000. The ferry was first operated by Simeon Postnikoff under contract with the Department of Public Works. The department paid a ferry man a bonus of ten dollars per month, and authorized him to collect in addition a low schedule of tolls for ferriage. In 1912 to 1913 traffic on Petrofka Ferry was 7,689 and on Telfungrund it was 18,130.

On June 6, 1910 a post office named Camberley was established on N E ¼ – Sec. 17 – Twp. 44 – Rge. 5 – W 3rd Mer., the former site of Slavenka Doukhobor village. The post office and general store were operated by Mrs. Emily Hill until June 24, 1915, when Miss Maus M. Knickerbocker was appointed postmistress. On May 31, 1916 postal duties were taken over by Rue Knickerbocker. In the

Prayer Home of the Independent Doukhobors, Located in the Town of Blaine Lake, Saskatchewan. Photo Author 1983

year 1918 the post office was relocated on S E ¼ – Sec 20 – Twp 44 – Rge 5 – W 3rd Mer on the farm of George S Karaloff, who operated the post office until April 30 1921 when it was closed permanently

An era of travel and communication began in the year 1911 with the completion of a railway and telegraph line from Prince Albert serving an area from the west bank of the North Saskatchewan River to the agricultural communities of Shellbrook, Parkside, Leask, Marcelin and Blaine Lake The railway and telegraph line was later extended to North Battleford connecting two vital points in the North-West.

Petrofka site formerly known as Petrovka because of its focal point in the history of the province, was designated "An Historical Site," on June 14, 1959 A cairn dedicated to the Pioneers of Slavic Origin of Doukhobor Faith, near the area of the village was unveiled, by the Department of Travel and Information for the Province of Saskatchewan

The Petrofka Ferry site was selected for the construction of a bridge to span the North Saskatchewan River in 1959 by the Department of Highways and Transportation due to increased volume of traffic and transportation of commodities (Two ferries were in operation in the 1950's) Construction of the bridge began in December 1960 The "Petrofka Bridge,' was officially opened to traffic on September 26 1962 — ending an era of ferry crossings in the area, with the closing of Carlton, Laird, and Petrofka Ferries

Teifungrund Ferry August 1912 later renamed Laird. Photo Courtesy Saskatchewan Archives Board RA 571

AN

HISTORIC SITE

PETROFKA FERRY

Unveiling

SUNDAY, JUNE 14, 1959

at 3:00 p.m., M.D.T.

TO COMMEMORATE MARKING THE SITE OF THE DOUKHOBOR FERRY ESTABLISHED IN 1901 AND LATER RE-NAMED THE PETROFKA FERRY

Bronze plaque mounted on the Cairn near the site of the first Doukhobor Village and the Petrofka Bridge. The plaque reads Preserve our Heritage Petrofka Ferry Dedicated to Pioneers of Slavic origin In 1899 Russian religious refugees from Transcaucasia members of the Doukhobor faith founded ten villages in the area near here For their convenience the Petrofka ferry was established below this point in 1901 It was an important line across the North Saskatchewan River for the trails and roads of the region A Saskatchewan Historic Site 1959 Photo Author 1984

PETROFKA FERRY

This site was chosen not on the basis of the natural beauty of its location on the west bank of the North Saskatchewan river but because it was one of the focal points in the history of this Province. The rivers which had been the watering places for millions of buffalo, and the highways for the Indians and fur-traders finally became barriers to the carts and wagons of the agricultural settlers, and to the railroads which began to traverse across the prairies in the late nineteenth century. A railroad from Regina to Prince Albert completed in 1890 brought settlers of mixed origin into the Northern prairie part east of this site.

In 1899 a group of settlers arrived from Russia whose story is unique even in the history of the colorful settlement of Saskatchewan. These were religious refugees known as Doukhobors a pietistic, pacifist sect who had maintained themselves in Russia for three hundred years against the powerful pressure of a state church and an absolute Czarist regime. When the pressure was increased in the late nineteenth century they were assisted to emigrate with the material help of the eminent Russian novelist Count Lee Tolstoy the active assistance of the Quaker Society of Great Britain and the United States, and the co-operation of the Canadian Government. Among the seventy-five hundred who came to Canada some fifteen hundred were brought to this area and settled in the villages north and west of this site. This settlement was begun in August, 1899.

The Doukhobors suffered the hardships and difficulties common to all our pioneers. Their rugged beginnings were lightened by three factors an outstanding capacity for hard work and shrewd planning forms of mutual aid and co-operative arrangements, and the sympathetic help of outside friends. Among the friends were the Quakers already mentioned. This Society built a school house and supported its first teachers among whom was a very remarkable woman Miss Ella Maria from Hamilton Ontario, and Herman L. Faal. The latter taught Russian. The remains of the stone foundations of the school house can still be seen on top of the hill west of the site.

In 1901 the government of the North West Territories established a ferry to facilitate east-west communications. It was early known as the Doukhobor Ferry but later was called Petrofka after the former village in the immediate vicinity. The name means Peter's and was a common Russian designation in honour of the saint.

The Ferry proved a great convenience not only to the Doukhobors, but also to other settlers who began pouring into this area after the turn of the century. Many of the pioneer memories of all the people of this region are connected with this important river crossing. Petrofka Ferry is therefore one of the many focal points throughout our vast Province which is of special historical interest and significance.

Dr. G. W. Simpson.

PROGRAMME

CHAIRMAN T. L. HULL *Deputy Minister Dept. Travel and Information.*

OPENING PRAYER (Our Father)

INTRODUCTIONS

DOUKHOBOR SONG

ADDRESS BY HON. R. A. WALDER, Q.C. *Attorney General*

DOUKHOBOR CHILDREN'S CHOIR

ADDRESS AND UNVEILING BY P. G. MAKAROFF Q.C.

ACCEPTANCE AND THANKS BY JOHN ANDREOSOFF *President Blaine Lake Doukhobor Society*

DOUKHOBOR STUDENTS' CHOIR

GREETINGS FROM CANADIAN ASSOCIATION OF SLAVISTS BY DR. J. F. RUSNYCHYN *President*

TRADITIONAL COMMUNITY SONG (We have concluded our Meeting')

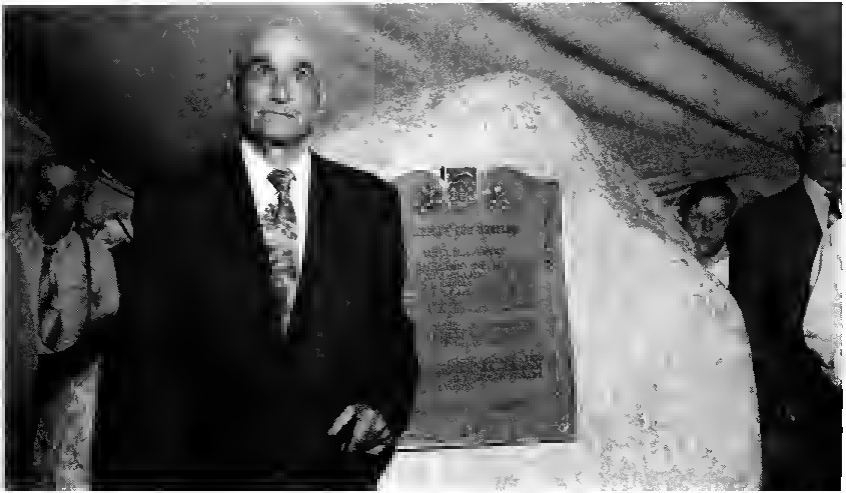
The Wingard Ferry established on the North Saskatchewan River in 1898 several miles downstream from the Fort Carlton Site, is still maintained and operated as a river crossing in the 1980's, to support the agricultural communities, and facilitate tourism to the historical sites of Fort Carlton, Batoche and Duck Lake museum

The era of the courageous early settlers, on the untamed Western Frontier of the region has faded with the years but the evidence of their presence reflects on the landscape of modern time

The stately maple grove that sheltered the first trading post (Fort La Montee) in the region still stands its branches reaching toward the sky with a whisper in the wind of the past

The sun rises and sets on the same plains and on the flowing river, where once the three groups the Metis, the Mennonites, and the Doukhobors had hopes and dreams to build a way of life, each within their respective beliefs.

Those God fearing people who came to the prairies to build a small Utopia have all gone, but their succeeding generations remain, with the legacy of their history marked only by focal points in the Carlton Region



George (Greesha) Chernoff of Doukhobor Faith at the age of 86, standing beside the Cairn at the official unveiling ceremonies on June 14, 1959. He was the last surviving forefather who endured the oppression and severe physical persecution by the Russian state-controlled Church and the Czarist Regime for his religious beliefs while observing the Commandment "Thou Shalt Not Kill". Deeply embedded lash scars along his back were evidence of the severe persecutions from which many had perished and those who survived preserved the spirit which guided them from tyranny to freedom in their exodus to the Canadian Prairie region. He passed away at the age of 92 years.

Standing on the left by the Cairn is Simeon Zhitnoff on the right is Jack Perehudoff pioneers of the immigration era. Jack Perehudoff homesteaded River Lot 1 Twp. 45 Rge. 5 — W3rd Mer. which was the site of the French fur trading post Fort La Montee. Photo Courtesy Saskatchewan Archives Board Saskatoon Star Phoenix Collection. S-SP-B 5103 13.

Petrofka Bridge open to traffic September 26 1962 Photo Author

Cairn overlooking the North Saskatchewan River West bank near the site of the first Doukhobor Village and the Petrofka Ferry Cairn dedicated by the Province of Saskatchewan. Photo Author

Wingard Ferry on the North Saskatchewan River- established 1898. From an oil painting by Agatha Stupnikoff 1984

Prairie Town in the Carlton region From an oil painting by Agatha Stupnikoff 1982

Conclusion

In conclusion as we reflect on our heritage and history, may we pause for a brief moment to give tribute to the courage and endurance of those who made this history unfold The Carlton Region with prime agricultural land and diversified farming, is within the boundaries of the Province of Saskatchewan

Saskatchewan in the beginning was often referred to as a poor "Country Cousin," among its neighboring provinces With agriculture an abundance of natural resources, and its people, Saskatchewan is now in the forefront The province could well boast of the sons and daughters who stemmed from those pioneers

The efforts, the daily privations, the trials, and the triumphs of the early settlers who paved the way for others were not in vain

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Blaine Lake Individuals of Doukhobor Faith Pioneer Era 1899 1907
Prince Albert Individual residents with recollections of Prince Albert as headquarters for the Lower Saskatchewan District and a Frontier Town 1862-1890
Rosthern Individuals of Mennonite Faith Pioneer Era 1874-1920

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Canada West, Volume 9 No 3 Fall 1979 Stagecoach Publishing Company Langley British Columbia
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Building
Our Future

HISTORICAL ATLAS OF THE CARLTON REGION, 1787 - 1900

1995-2001

DISPOSITIF RELIÉ DE TYPE CHARLTON BRUCKER (CB)

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Dépôt légal : 2e trimestre 2018
ISSN : 2555-...

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Preface

Chapter 1

The Beginning

It was a dark and stormy night. The rain fell in torrents, except at occasional intervals, when it was checked by a violent gust of wind which swept up the street, rattling the windows and howling through the chimneys.

The Professor sat alone in his study, surrounded by books and papers. He had been working for hours, and the clock on the mantelpiece had long since struck midnight.

Suddenly, there was a knock at the door.

"Who could that be at this hour?" he muttered, rising from his chair.

He opened the door and found a young woman standing on the doorstep, soaked to the skin.

"Please, sir, may I come in?" she asked, her voice trembling.

The Professor stepped aside and ushered her into the warmth of the study.

Chapter 2

The Visitor

The young woman's name was Elizabeth Carter. She had come to London from Yorkshire in search of her brother, who had disappeared three months earlier.

"I have exhausted all my resources," she said, sitting by the fire and drying her hair. "The police have done what they can, but I fear they have given up hope."

The Professor listened attentively, his fingers steepled before him.

"Tell me everything you know," he said.

Regatta im Luftschiffhafen

Der erste Wettbewerb [illegible] Luftschiffhafen [illegible] Regatta [illegible] Luftschiffhafen [illegible] Regatta [illegible] Luftschiffhafen [illegible] Regatta

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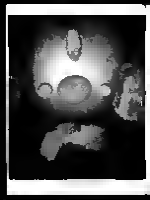
For La Mesure TM 1828 Contrôle Laser
Mesure Par Laser 828-1828

Name: Angel Flores
Age: 19 Sex: M
Race: Hispanic
Height: 5'10" Weight: 160 lbs
Hair: Black Eyes: Brown
Scars, Marks, Tattoos: None
Occupation: Student
Last Seen Wearing: Blue jeans, white t-shirt, black sneakers
Date Missing: March 14
Circumstances: Left home to walk to a friend's house and never arrived. Friend reported he was not there.
Vehicle: None
Foul Play Suspected: Yes
Investigating Officer: Det. R. Castillo
Case #: 2024-0317

Name: Jessica Whitmore
Age: 34 Sex: F
Race: Caucasian
Height: 5'6" Weight: 130 lbs
Hair: Red Eyes: Green
Scars, Marks, Tattoos: Small heart tattoo on left wrist
Occupation: Nurse
Last Seen Wearing: Navy scrubs, white sneakers, silver necklace
Date Missing: February 28
Circumstances: Left work at 11 PM and did not return home. Vehicle found abandoned two days later.
Vehicle: 2019 Honda Civic, silver
Foul Play Suspected: Yes
Investigating Officer: Det. M. Sandoval
Case #: 2024-0228



author name
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Preface Abbrev. Text Illustrations BCC-ISBNs

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CHAIRMAN
MANAGING DIRECTOR
DIRECTOR
DIRECTOR

Table de valeur

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Nombre de valeurs : 2 Somme : 3 Moyenne : 1,5 Variance : 0,25 Ecart-type : 0,5
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Nombre de valeurs : 4 Somme : 10 Moyenne : 2,5 Variance : 1,25 Ecart-type : 1,11803398874989
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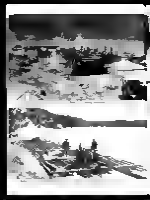
Nombre de valeurs : 10 Somme : 55 Moyenne : 5,5 Variance : 8,25 Ecart-type : 2,87228132326901



Western Eskimo Snow Vehicles on the Alaska Peninsula

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Caption

Introducing an Official Ambulance

Responding to the growing demand for ambulance services, the Municipal Council has decided to introduce an official ambulance service. The service will be available to all residents of the city and will operate from a central station. The ambulance will be equipped with modern medical facilities and will be manned by trained personnel.

The Council has appointed a committee to oversee the operation of the service. The committee will also be responsible for fixing the charges for the service. It is expected that the service will be inaugurated by the end of the month.

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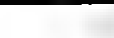

Volume 17, Number 1, Issue 124
January 1970

The 1970 Mathematical Prize Competition
Program of the Summer Meeting in Madison
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Program of the Summer Meeting in Boulder
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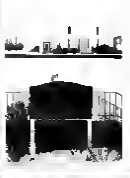

Early Sardine Breakfasts 1889–1907

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LOCOMOTIVE NUMBERS AND NAMES

Class or Type	Number	Name	Date
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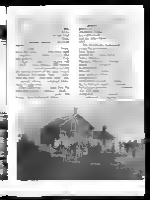
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]



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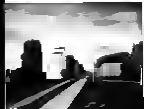

...ns/Indian

Rank	Name	Age	Nationality
1	Rahul Sharma	24	India
2	Priya Nair	22	India
3	Arjun Mehta	27	India
4	Sneha Kapoor	21	India
5	Vikram Singh	29	India
6	Anita Desai	25	India
7	Rohan Gupta	23	India
8	Meera Joshi	26	India
9	Karan Patel	28	India
10	Divya Reddy	20	India

A.s. Milk Splashed ...ollection

A collection of articles written by A.s. Milk, originally published in various newspapers and magazines between 1923 and 1931.

Contents

- The Morning Milk Round
- Cream Rises to the Top
- Cows and Their Keepers
- Bottles, Caps, and Corks
- A Day at the Dairy
- Milk Fever and Other Ailments
- Butter, Cheese, and Curds
- Winter Feeding
- Summer Pastures
- Letters to the Editor

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PERFORMANCE REVIEW

Name: _____ Quarterly Period: _____

Rate each area: exceeds expectations / meets expectations / needs improvement / not applicable.

Quality of work: _____

Productivity and timeliness: _____

Communication: _____

Teamwork and collaboration: _____

Initiative and problem-solving: _____

Reliability and attendance: _____

Goals set last quarter: _____

Goals achieved: _____

Goals not achieved, and why: _____

Strengths to build on: _____

Areas for development: _____

Training or support needed: _____

Goals for next quarter: _____

Overall rating: _____

Employee comments: _____

Employee signature: _____ Date: _____

Manager signature: _____ Date: _____